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GENEALOGY COLLECTION









HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF LAKEVILLE,

MASSACHUSETTS

1853-1953

by

Gladys De Maranville <u>Vigers</u>

1853 - 1953

One hundredth anniversary of the town of Lakeville





LAKEVILLE TOWN HOUSE 1180260

Before the Town House was built, several meetings were held: the first, in the Washburn School; another, in the Pond Meeting House, and still another, in the Upper Four Corners School.

At a meeting held on May 5, 1856, a nominating committee was appointed and later a building committee was elected. The nominating committee included Isaac Sampson, Job T. Nelson, George Osborn, Leonard Washburn and Jeremiah S. Hersey.

Members of the building committee were Job T. Tobey, Salmon M. Washburn, Calvin D. Kingman, Leonard Washburn, and Martin K. Haskins.

It was decided that the Town House should be built on the Washburn lot. The money to be used for the building was all that had accrued in the division of property with the Town of Middleboro, except the Rail Road stock.

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## Dedicated to her six children

Marjorie Thelma Vigers

EARLE RAYMOND VIGERS

JAMES JASPER VIGERS, 3RD

SHELDON VINCENT VIGERS

VERNON GORDON VIGERS

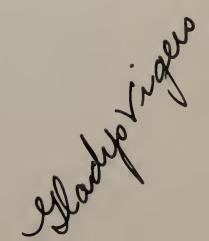
BETTE GAIL VIGERS

# HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF LAKEVILLE MASSACHUSETTS

By
GLADYS DEMARANVILLE VIGERS



In the State of Massachusetts
In its far off southern section
Near the land where Pilgrim Fathers
Landed in that bitter winter
Is a land of peace and plenty,
Is a pleasant land and fertile,
Is our lovely land of Lakeville.





#### **PREFACE**

# X K

Did you ever try writing a history and at the same time be a mother to six children? Well, I did, and found it an exhilarating experience. If you will bear with me, I will try to put in book form some of the material and information which have been gathered about this beautiful town of ours, LAKEVILLE.

It was through my husband that I was induced to write. In 1944, when he was elected highway surveyor for the Town of Lakeville, he showed and told me some of the unusual and interesting things. The first was the Malbone Cemetery, which is partly in the road. Then it was the well in the stone wall on Pickens Street, which has since been filled. From time to time he has called my attention to many things of interest in the town.

At times it has been hard to stay within the boundaries of the town because of unusual or historical incidents occurring just over the line in adjacent towns.

In seeking this information, I have had the pleasure of talking with many of the older residents of Lakeville and, in many cases, have been in touch with people who lived or had relatives in this town. It was very gratifying to talk with people who were so willing to help in every way possible. I wish at this time to thank each and every one who has in any way helped in the compiling of this book. I am greatly indebted to the Town of Lakeville for publishing this book, and for subsidizing a thousand dollars. I take this opportunity to thank sincerely those who edited and proofread the manuscript, for sparing no pains to make the book as accurate as possible in text and illustration.

Many of the illustrations are from photographs loaned by their owners and the designs have been made under the supervision of the author.

Materials for the articles have been taken, in most cases without express acknowledgment, from Ebenezer W. Peirce's Indian History, The Peirce Family, Plymouth County History of Lakeville, Thomas Weston's History of the Town of Middleboro,

Alvin Weeks' Massasoit, James Raymond Simmons' History of Trees of Massachusetts, Caroline Leonard Goodenough's Loves, Legends and Loyalties, and from news clippings from The Boston Post, The Boston Globe, The Herald-Traveler, The Brockton Enterprise-Times, The Taunton Gazette, The Middleboro Gazette and the New Bedford Standard-Times. Many dates and records have been taken from the annual Town Reports.

Like the painter who said, "I paint likenesses, not caricatures," so have I used my pen to write facts, not fancies.

#### CHAPTER I

#### **INDIANS**

O-DAY, September 16, 1946, as I take my pen in hand and start the story of one of the oldest and most interesting subjects in this book, The Indians, I am sitting on the white sands of the shore of the beautiful and historic Lake Assawompsett. It was on this Indian Shore long.

historic Lake Assawompsett. It was on this Indian Shore, long, long ago, that the copper-colored people lived and trod. Much has been written of the customs and characters of the Indians who once lived at Betty's Neck, which they called Nahteawamet. The Indians left no books or records; therefore, all the history ever written has been more or less traditional (verbally transmitted from parent to child), with each author forming his own opinion.

The Indians were supposed to have been very numerous in this country until the terrible plague which raged here in 1617. This plague took whole families and the well were so few that they were unable to care for the sick or to bury the dead. For years the former habitations could be located by the white mounds of unburied bones bleached in the sun and washed by the storms.

The red men, as the Indians were often called, are described as having been tall, with great strength. They were dark-skinned with high cheekbones and long black hair. The Indian is thought of as having a heart which was as strong in friendship as in hate.

Hunting and fishing seemed to have been their main livelihood. After the arrival of the white men in 1620 at Plymouth, the Indians traded furs with the Pilgrims for guns, cloth, hatchets, beads, etc. The cultivation of the soil by the Indians was crude, although they taught the whites the artificial method of fertilization. They raised maize and beans in abundance from which was made succotash, a dish originating with them. It was from the Indian women over three centuries ago that we learned of the grinding of corn by rolling round stones over it and of the making of johnny cakes. The Indians' custom of preparing the clambake is still recognized as the one method which gives it the peculiar flavor that cannot be secured in any other way. That method is heating rocks by building fires upon them, and then removing the embers and placing the clams, fish and green corn upon the rocks and covering them with seaweed, to hold the heat until they are thoroughly cooked.

#### THE WAMPANOAGS

It was on these historical grounds of Lakeville, then a wilderness, that the tribe of Wampanoag Indians held supreme power. Here the Indian chieftains led their tribes in hunting and fishing and later in fighting the white invaders of their lands. Massasoit was friendly with the early settlers and helped them in many ways. This Great Sachem had two sons, Wamsutta and Pometicon (or Metacomet), who, at their request, were given the English names of Alexander and Philip respectively.

At the death of Massasoit in 1660, his eldest son, Alexander, became chief of the Wampanoags. Alexander, like his father, was friendly with the white men. But rumors came that he was plotting with the Narragansetts against the English. A meeting was held and a few days later Alexander was taken sick. It was alleged that his death was hastened by ill treatment received at the hands of the English, and that this was one of the causes of King Philip's War. After the death of Alexander, his brother Philip became chief of the tribe. Unlike his father and brother, Philip mistrusted the whites. He believed that sooner or later they would wipe the Indians off the continent. Accordingly, he

began preparing for the war, which he thought would occur about 1676. An ambassador from the English was sent to King Philip, requesting him to sign a treaty and to return all firearms to the English at Taunton and Plymouth. Philip and four of his chief captains then and there signed this treaty. It is almost needless to say that this promise was not fulfilled.

## JOHN SASSAMON'S MURDER

Then John Sassamon was murdered. He was the educated Indian who preached to his own people and was secretary and interpreter for King Philip as early as 1662. Sassamon, on learning that his countrymen were preparing for a war with the English, went to Plymouth and told the Governor. By some means the knowledge of Sassamon's going to Plymouth was communicated to Philip. As a consequence, John Sassamon was considered a traitor and, by the laws of the Indians, had forfeited his life.

Early in the spring of 1675 Sassamon was missing. On search being made, his body was found in Assawompsett Pond, supposedly in Sampson's Cove, although some accounts give it as at the foot of Highland Road. It is said that a witness stood on King Philip's Lookout and saw the incident. Sassamon's hat and gun were found on the ice. But the marks upon the body, together with the fact that the neck was broken, led to the conclusion that he had not drowned but that he was killed before being thrown into the water. January 29, 1675, was the date when Sassamon was said to have been slain. Three Indians were apprehended as murderers: Tobias, Wampapaum and Mattushamama. In the indictment it was charged that they:

"Att a place called Assowamsett Pond, wilfully and of sett purpose and of mallice fore thought and by force and armes did murder John Sassamon, an other Indian, by laying violent hands on him, and striking him, or twisting his necke vntill hee was dead, and to hide and conceale this theire said murder, att the time and place aforesaid, did cast his dead body through a hole in the iyce into said pond."

One acknowledged his guilt but the other two denied all knowledge of the act. They were sentenced to be hanged "by the head vntill theire bodies are dead." The Indians Tobias and Mattushamama were thus executed on the 8th. day of June 1675. And Wampapaum relieved for a few days, but was shot within the month.

"The Verdict of the Jury giuen into Court in the words followinge.

"Wee of the Jury one and all both English and Indians doe joyntly and with one consent agree vpon a verdict: that Tobias and his son Wampapaquan, and Mattashunnamo, the Indians whoe are the prisoners are guilty of the blood of John Sassamon, and were the murderers of him according to the bill of inditement."

"The Names of the Jury that went on this Tryall:—William Sabine, William Crocker, Edward Sturgis, William Brooks, Nathaniel Winslow, John Wadsworth, Andrew Ringe, Robert Vixon, John Done, Jonathan Banges, Jonathan Shaw, Benjamin Higgins. It was judged very expedient by the Court that together with this English Jury aboue named, some of the most indifferentest grauest and sage Indians should be admitted to be with the said Jury, and to healp to consult and aduice with of and concerning the premises. There names are as followeth, viz.: one called by the English name, Hope, and Maskippague, Wanno, Gorge, Wampye and Acanootus; these fully concurred with the aboue written jury in theire verdict."—Ply. Col. Rec., Vol. V., pp. 167-8.

#### KING PHILIP'S WAR

Thus with the murdering of John Sassamon and the executing of Tobias, Wampapaum and Mattushamama, the war which was the most disastrous of early New England began before Philip was fully prepared. Many books have been written about King Philip's War. There are however a few incidents which took place within the boundary of Lakeville (at that time the western part of Middleboro) which should be of interest.

As we all know, Captain Benjamin Church was in charge of the white forces during that great struggle. Tuspaquin, alias Watuspaquin and called also the Black Sachem, was chief of the Assawompsett tribe of Indians. Captain Church learned that Chief Tuspaquin and his warriors were at Assawompsett Neck or Betty's Neck. At the small stream which runs from Long



Pond into Assawompsett Lake and is now spanned by a bridge, Church with his men encountered Tuspaquin and his Indians. This was just in the dusk of the evening and after a few shots were exchanged the Indians fell back. Church with his followers went on into Assawompsett Neck and in the morning proceeded to the Acushnet River,

being fired on by Tuspaquin's scouts while traversing Assawompsett Neck but sustaining no injury. The place of encampment of Church and his men that night is thought to have been upon the farm of the late Sidney T. Nelson.

William Nelson, son of Thomas Nelson, was born May 17, 1675. From the Nelson Records comes the story that when only four weeks old, he was taken by his mother on horseback to Plymouth, to escape the horrors of King Philip's War. While all the men were away fighting Indians at the "Stock-cade," other Indians were up here burning Lakeville. The burning of Middleboro seems to have been at two different times because E. W. Peirce's Indian History relates that on May 13, 1676, the Indians burned or destroyed the remaining houses at Nemasket.

Within the pages of his book Mr. Peirce has included some old deeds copied from Drake's Book on the Indians. These should be of interest at this present time.

August 9, 1667, to Henry Wood, of Plymouth, in consideration of the sum of £4, land on the east side of Nemasket River, and bounded on one end by Black Sachem's Pond, which in the

Indian tongue was called Wanpawcut, and on the other end by a small pond then known as Asnemscutt. The chief reserved to himself the right to continue to get cedar bark in the swamp of the tract conveyed.

July 17, 1669, the chief with his son, who was called William Tuspaquin, for £10, sold Experience Mitchell and Henry Sampson of Duxbury, Thomas Little of Marshfield and Thomas Paine of Eastham, a tract of land described as being near Assawomset, half a mile wide and extending from said pond to Dartmouth path.

June 10, 1670, the same parties, for £6, sold to Edward Grey, meadow near the town of Middleborough on the west side of land then owned by John Alden and Constant Southworth; and further described as being between Assawamset Pond and the Taunton path. It was said to be in three parcels and lying in three brooks. They also conveyed another lot lying upon the other side of the Taunton path.

June 30, 1672, Tuspaquin, who in the deed described as sachem of "Namasskett" and his son William, who in the same document is called Mantowapuct, sold to Edward Grey and Josias Winslow land on the easterly side of Assawompsett, to begin where the Namasket River falleth out of the pond, from thence bounded by the pond, and thence on a line marked by bounds to Tuspaquin's Pond and thence by land formerly sold to Henry Wood.

In 1673 chief, who is called Old Watuspaquin, and his son William Tuspaquin, by deed of gift, conveyed to John Sassamon alias Wassasoman 27 acres of land at Assawamset Neck, March 1673, the same parties deeded to an Indian named Felix, son-in-law to John Sassamon 58½ acres of land.

July 3, 1673, Tuspaquin and son William for £15 sold Benjamin Church of Duxbury, a house carpenter, and John Tomson of Barnstable, land in Middleborough bounded westerly by Monhiggen River, and thence bounded by a cedar swamp to Tuspaquin's pond and thence by Henry Wood's land to a place called Nahudst River.

November 1, 1673, the son William Watuspaquin, and Indians Assaweta, Tobias and Dewat for £16, sold a tract of land bounded northerly by Quetaquash River, easterly by Snepetuitt Pond and also bounded in part by Quetaquash Pond.

December 23, 1673, Old Tuspaquin and his son William made a deed of gift to Assawetough of a neck of land at Assawamset, which they called Nahteawamet.

May 14, 1675, Tuspaquin and his son, for £33 sterling, sold upland and meadows at and about the ponds Ninipoket and Quiticus. John Tompson and Constant Southworth were among the purchasers.



ZERVIAH G. MITCHELL
Publisher, "Indian History, Biography and Genealogy"

#### INDIAN GENEALOGY

- 1. Massasoit, alias Asamequin, or Osamequin, chief of the Wampanoag tribe of Indians at the time of the landing of the English at Plymouth, had children as follows:
  - 2. Wamsutta,² b. at date unknown; m. Namumpum, alias Tatapanum, alias Weetamoo, and sometimes called the Squaw Sachem of Pocasset. Wamsutta appears to have first received the name of Moonanam, which was changed in or about 1641 to Wamsutta; and a few years later he accepted from the English the name of Alexander. He d. in 1662. His wife, thus made a widow, contracted a second marriage with an Indian named Petonowowett; and as he took part with the English in King Philip's war, she left him and became the wife of a Narraganset Sachem named Quinapin whom the English put to death at Newport, R. I., Aug. 25, 1676. Weetamoo was drowned in Taunton River, Aug. 6, 1676. Her remains drifted on shore in the town of Swansea.
  - 3. Metacom,<sup>2</sup> alias Pometacom, who accepted from the English the name of Philip, but now better known in history as King Philip. The date of his birth is unknown. He m. Wootone-kanuske, a sister of Weetamoo. He was killed in battle near Mount Hope, in what is now the township of Bristol, R. I., Aug. 12, 1676. He had a son whose name at this time cannot be certainly ascertained. This son, while yet a child, was captured by the English and sold into slavery.
  - 4. Sonkanuhoo,² who was perhaps identical with the brother of King Philip said to have been slain at the fight in a swamp in Pocasset (afterwards Tiverton), July 18, 1675.
  - 5. A DAUGHTER,<sup>2</sup> whose name is unknown. She is said to have been captured by the English, July 31, 1676.
  - +6. Amie,2 in. Tuspaquin, the Black Sachem.

AMIE<sup>2</sup> [No. 6] (Massasoit<sup>1</sup>), daughter of Massasoit, chief of the Wampanoags, was born at a date unknown. She became the wife of the Black Sachem, so called, the chief of the Assawamsett Indians. His name appears in history as Tuspaquin, and also as Watuspaquin. He followed the fortunes of his brother-in-law Philip, was captured by the English and put to death at Plymouth some time in September, 1676.

Tuspaquin and wife Amie<sup>2</sup> had children as follows:

7. WILLIAM,<sup>3</sup> was so called by the English, though his Indian name was Mantowapuct. He joined in the deeds of conveyance of

lands under dates of July 17, 1669, June 10, 1670, June 30, 1672, May 14, 1675. Mantowapuct alias William Tuspaquin, with Assaweta, Tobias and Bewat, for £10. sold to three English people at Barnstable a tract of land bounded on Quetaquash Pond, northerly of Quetaquash River and easterly of Suepetuitt Pond. He also joined his father in a deed of land to an Indian named Felix, a son-in-law of John Sassamon. That deed was dated March 11, 1673 (O. S.). So far as can be learned, he never married. It is thought he lost his life in King Philip's war, as he was alive up to May 14, 1675, and no mention is made of him after that date.

+8. Benjamin, m. Weecum.

Benjamin Tuspaquin³ [No. 8] (Amie,² Massasoit¹), son of Tuspaquin, was born at a date unknown at the present time. He was somewhat distinguished as a warrior, and had a piece of his jaw shot off in battle. He married an Indian named Weecum. He died suddenly, while sitting in his wigwam, having just before complained of feeling faint. He served the English in Capt. James Church's company.

BENJAMIN TUSPAQUIN<sup>3</sup> and wife Weecum had children as follows:

- 9. Esther, b. at date unknown; m. Tobias Sampson; they had no children. Tobias Sampson was what was called "a praying Indian," and used to preach at his house in what was then South Freetown, but now East Fall River; by which his house acquired the name of the "Indian College"—or at least such is the tradition.
- 10. Hannah,<sup>4</sup> m. an Indian named Quam, and had two children: Hope,<sup>5</sup> never m.; she taught school at what is called Indian Town in Fall River. John,<sup>5</sup> never m.; he was lost at sea. (Tradition).
- 11. Mary, m. Isaac Sissel and had three children: Mercy, Mary, and Arbella, Two of the children died in infancy. (Tradition).
- +12. Benjamin,4 m. Mercy Felix, of Middleborough, that part now Lakeville.

Benjamin Tuspaquin<sup>4</sup> [No. 12] (Benjamin,<sup>3</sup> Amie,<sup>2</sup> Massasoit<sup>1</sup>), son of Benjamin by wife Weecum, was born at date unknown. He married Mercy Felix.

BENJAMIN TUSPAQUIN4 and wife MERCY FELIX had one child:

+13. Lydia,5 m. Wamsley. He went to sea and never returned.

Note—Mercy Felix, who became the wife of Benjamin Tuspaquin [No. 12], was a daughter of an Indian named Felix, who married Assowetough, a daughter of John Sassamon, alias Wassasamon. The Indian Felix received from the Sachem Tuspaquin, and his son William Tuspaquin, a deed of  $58\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land, as "a home lott," March 11, 1673, O.S. That land is in what is now the town of Lakeville. The chief, Tuspaquin, and his son William Tuspaquin, by deed without a date, save that of the year 1673, conveyed to John Sassamon, alias Wassasamon, "27 acres of land for a home lot at Assowamsett necke," which land Sassamon not long after in writing conveyed to his sonin-law Felix, the husband of his daughter Assowetough. Under date of Dec. 23, 1673, Tuspaquin, with his son William Tuspaquin, "with the consent of all the chieffe men of Assowamsett," conveyed by deed of gift to Assowetough, daughter of John Sassamon, a neck of land at Assowamsett, called Nahteawamet, bounded by Mashquomoh swamp, Sasonkususett pond, and a large pond called Chupipoggut. In 1679, Governor Winslow, of the Plymouth Colony, ordered "that all such lands as were formerly John Sassamon's in our collonie, shall be settled on Felix his son-in-law," and to remain his and his heirs forever. The Indian, Felix, died before Assowetough, the wife, and she, in a will made in 1696, gave her lands to her daughter Mercy Felix, the wife of Benjamin Tuspaquin [No. 12]. Thus we see that Benjamin Tuspaquin [No. 12], a great-grandson of the chieftain Massasoit, married Mercy Felix, a granddaughter of John Sassamon, and thus the lands granted to John Sassamon and to his daughter Assowetough, and to her husband Felix, came into the possession and ownership of the Tuspaquin family. As Assowetough the daughter of John Sassamon received from the English the name of Betty, her lands thus came to be called, and are still known as "Betty's Neck." Esther Sampson, Hannah Quam and Mary Sissel were quite indignant at this act of their brother Benjamin Tuspaquin, viz., marrying a granddaughter of John Sassamon, whom they regarded as the prime betrayer of the cause of their countrymen and people in the struggle still known as King Philip's war; a conflict in which their grandfather, the Black Sachem Tuspaquin, had laid down his life, their great uncle Philip had lost his kingdom and life, and the hopes of the red men had perished. And the strong dislike of these Indian women did not end with the person of their brother's wife, but was entertained also against their brother's daughter, Lydia Tuspaquin, the wife of the Indian Wamsley and grandmother of Mrs. Zerviah Gould Mitchell. Another objection to the wife of Benjamin Tuspaquin, entertained by his sisters, doubtless was that the Indian Felix, in King Philip's war, had taken part with and fought for the English. In the war with the Pequots, waged in 1637, an Indian named "Sosomon" assisted the English, and as the men of the Pequot tribe were then nearly all slain, the women and children were appropriated by the victors and sold as slaves. Capt. Israel Stoughton wrote to the Governor of Massachusetts: "By this pinnace you shall receive 48 or 50 women and children unless there stay any here to be helpful. Concerning which there is one, I formerly mentioned, that is the fairest and largest that I saw amongst them, to whom I have given a coat to cloathe her. It is my desire to have her for a servant if it may stand with your good liking—else not. There is a little squaw that Steward Culacut desireth, to whom I have given a coat. Lieut. Davenport

also desireth one, to wit, a small one &c. Sosomon the Indian desireth a young little squaw, which I know not."

In the Tuspaquin family it is handed down traditionally that the Indian Sosomon, who aided the English in the Pequot War, was identical with John Sassamon, the educated and praying Indian, and that the "young little squaw" he desired and was permitted from among the female captives to take, was a daughter of the Pequot chief Sassacus, which daughter, Sassamon made his wife, and she thus became the mother of Assowetough, who by the English was called Betty. Admitting the truth of this Indian tradition, it is shown that Zerviah Gould Mitchell is of the sixth generation in lineal descent from Sassacus, the earliest chief known of the numerous and powerful Pequot tribe of Indians.

Lydia Tuspaquin<sup>5</sup> [No. 13] (Benjamin, Benjamin, Amie, 2 Massasoit<sup>1</sup>), daughter of Benjamin Tuspaquin, by wife Mercy Felix, married an Indian named Wamsley. She was drowned in Assowamset Pond, July, 1812. She was born at what is still known as "Betty's Neck," then in Middleborough, but now in Lakeville. Both her parents died when she was but a child, but her grandfather Benjamin [No. 8] continued to care for her as long as he lived, and while Lydia was still young, she went to live with Joanna Hunt, who married a Mr. Moore, and afterwards resided in Petersham, Mass., Lydia accompanying them, they caring for her as if she had been their own child. Improving these opportunities, Lydia attended school and became quite a good scholar, and in after life became the chief amanuensis of her people residing at "Betty's Neck." While she was residing at Petersham, a bear came one night and took a small pig, when in the darkness Lydia resolutely rushed out, musket in hand, shot the bear and saved the pig before bruin had time to kill it. Lydia claimed great skill in the healing art, and was in the act of gathering herbs for medical purposes, when she fell from a high bank into Assawomset Pond and was drowned. Her married life was mostly spent at Betty's Neck.

Wamsley and wife Lydia Tuspaquin<sup>5</sup> had children as follows:

- 14. Zerviah,<sup>6</sup> b. in 176—; m. Dec. 4, 1791, James Johnson, of Gayhead. She died in July, 1816. They had one child, named *Arabella*, that d. when 3 months old.
- 15. PAUL,<sup>6</sup> b. 176-; m. Phebe Jeffries, and had: i. Mary.<sup>7</sup> ii. Jane,<sup>7</sup> m. John Rosier of Middleborough, that part now Lakeville; he

was drowned in Feb. 1851. iii. Wealthy. iv. Lydia. v. Ephraim, never married. vi. Bathsheba, m. — Munroe. vii. — (name not now remembered).

- +16. Phebe,<sup>6</sup> b. Feb. 26, 1770; d. Aug. 16, 1839; m. twice—lst, Silas Rosier, and 2d, Brister Gould.
  - 17. Jane, b. in or about 1771; d. April 15, 1794, aged about 23 years.
  - 18. Benjamin,<sup>6</sup> b. about 1773; d. April 22, 1799, aged about 26 years.

Phebe Wamsley<sup>6</sup> [No. 16] (Lydia Tuspaquin,<sup>5</sup> Benjamin,<sup>4</sup> Benjamin,<sup>3</sup> Amie,<sup>2</sup> Massasoit<sup>1</sup>), daughter of Wamsley and Lydia Tuspaquin, was born Feb. 26, 1770. She married 1st, Nov. 27, 1791, Silas Rosier, an Indian of the Marshpee tribe, who served as private soldier in the patriot army of the war of American Revolution, entering that service at the commencement of the conflict, and serving until its close. He died at sea, and his widow married 2d, March 4, 1797, Brister Gould. He for a time served as teamster to the patriot army in our revolutionary war. He was drowned at a place called Hawkley, in East Weymouth, Mass., Aug. 28, 1823. She died Aug. 16, 1839.

SILAS ROSIER and wife Phebe Wamsley<sup>6</sup> had children as follows:

- 19. Martin, b. June, 1792; d. July, 1792.
- 20. John, b. Sept. 15, 1793; m. Jane Wamsley, his cousin, a daughter of Paul Wamsley and wife Phebe Jeffries. John Rosier was a sailor on board the U. S. Frigate "Macedonia," and was drowned in the Assawomset Pond, Middleborough, February, 1851. At the date of his death he resided at Betty's Neck, in what was then Middleborough, but now the town of Lakeville. They had a son John, who was also a sailor, and never married.

Brister Gould and wife Phebe Wamsley had children as follows:

- 21. Betsey, b. Nov. 26, 1797; m. Aug. 7, 1816, James Hill of Boston; d. in that place, April 16, 1824. They had children: i. Keziah, b. Jan. 15, 1818; m. Camoralsman Gould, and died Sept. 15, 1844, having had one child. ii. James, b. Sept. 15, 1819; d. Sept. 15, 1821.
- 22. Lydia, b. June 12, 1799; m. Nov. 12, 1819, Antonio D. Julio, a native of Portugal. She died April 22, 1855. They had no children.

- 23. Jane S., b. March 12, 1801; m. July 14, 1821, John Williams. She died in New Orleans, May 27, 1844. They had no children. She was remarkable for her skill in managing a horse, riding on horse-back without saddle or bridle. She was also an expert swimmer, and once when swimming in the water at Ipswich she came near losing her life, from a man who aimed his gun at her head that he mistook for a wild duck. With her husband she visited Paris and other places of note in the old world.
- 24. Ruby, b. May 30, 1803; m. Dec. 22, 1824, Benjamin Hall of Philadelphia. She died in or about 1851. They had one child: *Lydia*, who d. when about five years old.
- 25. Malinda, b. April 23, 1805; never married; d. June 16, 1824.
- +26. Zerviah, b. July 24, 1807; m. Oct. 17, 1824, Thomas C. Mitchell. He died March 22, 1859.
  - 27. Benjamin S.,7 b. Oct. 31, 1809; never married; was lost at sea.

Zerviah Gould [No. 26] (Phebe W., Lydia T., Benjamin, Benjamin, Amie, Massasoit), daughter of Brister and Phebe Gould, was born July 24, 1807. She married Thomas C. Mitchell, Oct. 17, 1824. He died in East Fall River, March 22, 1859. She resided in North Abington until coming to Lakeville in May, 1879. She was educated in the public schools of Abington and at a private school in Boston. When a young woman she taught a private school in Boston. She was the publisher of a book "Indian History, Biography and Genealogy," written by E. W. Peirce—from which this Genealogy is taken. She died March 5, 1898 at Betty's Neck and was buried in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery in North Abington.

Thomas C. Mitchell and wife Zerviah Gould had children as follows:

- 28. Jane W.,<sup>8</sup> b. in Boston, April 15, 1827; d. in North Abington, March 28, 1840.
- 29. Zerviah G.,<sup>8</sup> b. in Charlestown, June 17, 1828; was educated in the common schools of Abington, High School at that place, and graduated at Union Academy; m. Nov. 14, 1854, Joseph C. Robinson. They had a child born March 16, 1860; stillborn.
- 30. Levina C., b. in Charlestown, April 10, 1830; d. June 30, 1841.
- 31. Deloris B.<sup>8</sup> (Indian name, *Chic-chic-chewee*), b. in North Abington, Aug. 31, 1834; was educated in the common schools of

- Abington, High School of that town, and graduated at Union Academy, E. P. Bates, principal; d. June 2, 1875.
- 32. Melinda<sup>8</sup> (Indian name, *Teweeleema*), b. in North Abington, April 11, 1836. Was educated at the common schools in Abington; Union Academy, W. A. Stone, principal; High School in Abington, E. P. Bates, principal.
- 33. Thomas C.,<sup>8</sup> b. in North Abington, Nov. 17, 1838. He was drowned while bathing in Elder's Pond in Lakeville, June 16, 1859. He was pursuing studies preparatory for the gospel ministry.
- 34. John B.,<sup>s</sup> b. in North Abington, April 17, 1841. He was lost at sea in September, 1870.
- 35. Lydia A., b. Oct. 21, 1843.
- 36. Emma J., b. in North Abington, June 2, 1846; m. Jan. 1, 1873, Jacob C. Safford. They had two children: i. *Helen G.*, b. Oct. 31, 1873. ii. *Alonzo C.*, b. June 5, 1875.
- 37. Charlotte L.8 (Indian name, Wootonekanuske), b. in North Abington, Nov. 2, 1848; was educated at the common schools in Abington, and one year at the Harvard Street School, in Cambridge.
- 38. ALONZO H., b. in North Abington, Sept. 1, 1850.



CHARLOTTE MITCHELL (Indian name, Wootonekanuske)

MELINDA MITCHELL (Indian name, Teweeleema)

#### OUR LAKEVILLE INDIANS

In May, 1879, Zerviah Gould Mitchell and two of her daughters, Melinda and Charlotte, came from North Abington to Assawompsett Neck, or Betty's Neck as we know it, and to Indian Shore, to take possession of their tribal heritage. Their lands at Betty's Neck consisted of a narrow strip of eleven acres on the southeast shore of Assawompsett Pond, all that remained of the eighty-five acres, the gifts of Tuspaquin. As has been recorded, in 1673, Tuspaquin and his son gave twenty-seven acres of land to John Sassamon, fifty-eight acres to Felix, Sassamon's son-in-law, and a neck of land, called Nahteawamet, to Assowetough, the daughter.



HOME OF MELINDA MITCHELL, (PRINCESS TEWEELEEMA).

It was on this Indian land that the Mitchells built a comfortable home; it was well furnished, even to a piano in the parlor. Parts of the baby grand were still in the house, long after the roof was gone. From this home they went out to earn their livelihood — by selling the baskets, brooms, and beaded work which they had made and the vegetables they had raised.

With their wares, they were frequent visitors at Sampson's Tavern, here in Lakeville, and at the summer resort of Onset, where Teweeleema also told fortunes.

The Mitchells were ever bitter toward the white men for the wrong which the Indians claimed was done to them by the early settlers. For years the mother, Zerviah G. Mitchell, petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature to remove the State's guardianship from her lands and to pay her for the wood cut therefrom by their agent, Benjamin F. Winslow, of Fall River. A report was made that \$1500 worth of wood had been cut in one winter from the Squim lots, although the Indians received not a penny for it. These Squim lots were numbered 19, 20, 21, and 22 four of the twenty-five lots of the Indian Plantation, which was a tract of land in what was then Freetown but is now the eastern part of Fall River. These lots were given to Tuspaquin the Second, who was renamed, Benjamin Squinnaway, by the English. At the second survey of the Indian Plantation made in 1764, the nineteenth lot was reported as belonging to Esther Sampson and Sarah Squin, who were grandchildren of Benjamin Squinnaway, believed to have been Benjamin Tuspaquin.

In the last century, Josiah DeMaranville brought a bill in equity to stop the cutting of wood upon five acres of land running from Cranberry Pond to Lake Assawompsett. The trouble started over a certain disputed title of land; the Indians claimed that it was their inherited right to do what they were doing. Mr. DeMaranville said that it was deeded to him December 17, 1856 by Augustus W. Munroe. The defenders were Alonzo H. Mitchell of Abington and Melinda and Charlotte Mitchell, both of Lakeville.

The father of our Lakeville Indians, Thomas C. Mitchell, was part Cherokee and part English. He and Zerviah Gould were married October 17, 1824, and lived in North Abington for many years. Mitchell followed the sea and was first steward on a merchant vessel sailing out of Boston for China. He died in 1859 in Fall River.

The mother, Zerviah G. Mitchell, was a full-blooded Indian and was born July 24, 1807. Mrs. Mitchell died March 5, 1898 in the little cottage at Betty's Neck in her ninety-first year and was buried in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery in North Abington.

In all, there were eleven children born to Thomas and Zerviah Mitchell, as listed in Peirce's Indian Genealogy. There was the daughter, Zerviah Robinson, who frequently tarried under the roof of the two sisters at Betty's Neck. A son, Thomas C.



Alonzo Mitchell, in doorway of home of Lydia Tuspaquin, his great-grandmother.

At the time the picture was taken the dwelling was over 200 years old.

Mitchell, was drowned at Elder's Pond in Lakeville June 16, 1859, while bathing. Another son, Alonzo, lived in North Abington and was employed in a shoe shop there. He frequently spent vacations with his princess sisters in Lakeville. These Mitchells visited Lakeville but the older residents remember the two last Indian princesses to live at Assawompsett Neck, Melinda and Charlotte.

Melinda was Princess Teweeleema, the Indian meaning of which is, "Bride of the Forest." Teweeleema, as a member of the Wampanoag Tribe, was proud of her ancestry and gloried

in her copper-colored skin. Whenever she appeared in public it was always in full tribal costume. On her visits to Boston to plead for her lands, she wore the feathers, beaded gown, and moccasins. While the famous princess outwardly was cheerful, she always harbored the opinion that the government had failed to show her and her sister the respect due them. She claimed to her dying day that there were two hundred acres of Indian lands in Fall River which rightfully belonged to the descendants of the Old Chieftain of the Wampanoags but that they had been scaled down to twenty-seven acres. She claimed that five hundred, or six hundred, acres of land in Lakeville belonged to the descendants of Massasoit by right, of which there were only eleven left. On October 7, 1919, Princess Teweeleema died in her eighty-third year, in the little cottage on the shore of Assawompsett, the lake she loved so well. She was buried in Mt. Vernon Cemetery in North Abington.

Princess Wootonekanuske, known to us as Charlotte or Lottie Mitchell, was born November 2, 1848 in North Abington. She, like her sister, was educated at the common schools in Abington. While Melinda always wore the dress of Indian royalty, Charlotte, for every day purposes, wore more conventional clothing. Unlike her sister, Miss Mitchell visited with the people of Lakeville, coming to one home several times for flagroot which the Indians used as a medicine. It was her great grandmother, Lydia Tuspaquin, who claimed great skill in the healing art. The high triumph of Wootonekanuske's life came when she was chosen to unveil the statue of Chief Massasoit, which is on Cole's Hill in Plymouth. Charlotte Mitchell, by patient review of history recorded in her memory, would often correct the townspeople who had the impression she was a descendant of King Philip. That warrior was her uncle, seven generations removed, she would explain. She traced her ancestry to Massasoit through her mother, who came in direct line from Amie, the daughter of Massasoit. The last seven years of her life were spent — due to broken health — at the home of white friends in Middleboro.

Princess Wootonekanuske, last of the Wampanoags and direct descendant of Massasoit, died at the age of eighty-two. Thus the history of the Assawompseit shore dwellers is ended. Charlotte Mitchell's resting place is in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery in North Abington. And so across the big sea waters and to the happy hunting grounds, passed the last of the Lakeville Indians.

Thousands have visited the quaint little house, the home of our Indians, to see and learn more of the fast vanishing tribe. From time to time each generation in their teens has had the urge to go there and hunt for hidden treasures and to dig for Indian relics. Many groups, both old and young, in years gone by, have enjoyed picnics at Indian Shore and have visited the rocks with the old markings which are located midway between Indian Shore and Jeremy's Point.

# CHAPTER II

#### LAKEVILLE

I

T is believed that about 1709 a pioneer settler of European descent came to the Beech Woods portion of what was then Middleboro but is now Lakeville. Eight years later (1717), the first white man settled

upon Assawompsett Neck.

Isaac Peirce with his sons Isaac and Thomas Peirce and a Benjamin Boothe were the first white settlers of the Beech Woods section and Thomas Nelson was the first on Assawompsett Neck.

On the 23d of January, 1709, Benjamin Boothe and Isaac Peirce, Jr. purchased quite an extensive tract of land then lying in Middleboro and Taunton but now in Berkeley and Lakeville. Another of the early comers to Beech Woods was Rebecca, Isaac's daughter. Rebecca became the wife of Samuel Hoar and mother of most, if not all, of the family of that name in Lakeville.

Thomas Nelson, the pioneer white settler upon Assawompsett Neck, purchased lands in 1714 but he did move there with his family until 1717.

Lakeville, until the year 1853, was included in and comprised about one-third of the western portion of Middleboro. Before the division, Middleboro was said to be one of the largest towns in the state. This made it difficult for those living on the outskirts to gather for the transaction of public business and it led to several efforts for a legal division, one of these occurring as early as 1742. Middleboro Town House at that time was located on the corner of Grove and Main Streets. This necessitated a walk of eight miles at least, for many who had no other means of conveyance.

Following is a copy of Apollas Haskins' tax bills, together with a list of the petitioners for and against the division of the town.

The petitioners in favor of the division of the town and the amount of taxes paid by each individual:

Stillman Andrews	\$5.52	John C. Reed	4.70
Abram Ashley	3.00	Francis Reed	1.30
James Brown	2.26	William Ramsdal	1.30
Nehemiah Bennett	1.30	Job Macomber	1.30
Albert Chase	8.45	Eleezer Richmond 2d	24.07
William A. Coombs	5.09	William Richmond	1.30
Henry Caswell	1.30	Edward H. Richmond	8.74
Oramell Churchill	1.30	Benjamin Richmond	3.80
James A. Dean	1.30	Abiel W. Southworth	5.24
Nathan B. Dunbar	6.10	Albert Southworth	1.30
John Eliott	1.30	Gideon Southworth	9.30
James Eliott	1.30	Thomas Southworth	6.48
Martin Haskins	3.10	William Southworth	7.83
Cephas Haskins	3.94	Otis Southworth	2.74
Samuel Howard	1.30	Hiram Southworth	1.30
Edwin Jenney	1.40	Paul Staples	3.32
William Jenney	1.30	Nathaniel Staples	17.04
James Jenney	1.30	Harrison Staples	4.42
Tisdale Leonard	33.55	John Sampson	16.80
Nathaniel Macomber	28.66	Nathaniel Sampson	24.20
Frederick Leonard	32.07	Abram Shaw	6.74
Samuel Miller	5.57	Levi Sampson	1.30
Samuel Miller, Jr.	1.30	John H. Sampson	1.30
Nathan Maxium	1.34	Peter Smith	1.30
Cyrus Nelson	8.36	Francis Sampson	1.30
John H. Nelson	8.36	Nathan S. Williams	1.54
Frederick Nants	1.40	Roland Hathon	5.00
William Paull	1.49	Robert Lesure	1.30
Ebenezer W. Pierce	16.70	William Harlow	13.04

#### The remonstrants were:

Jonthan Barney	1.30	Appolas Haskins	7.49
George Barney	11.43	Franklin Haskins	1.54
Jonathan C. Bump	6.39	Harrison Haskins	1.30
Samuel Cole	8.98	William Hubbard	3.80
Eliab Caswell	4.27	Paul L. Jones	2.84
Stilson Caswell	1.30	Ebenezer Jones	2.26
Thomas Doggett	24.24	James Leonard	13.30
John Dean	1.35	James H. Leonard	1.30
Orville Daniels	1.30	Gideon Leonard	7.44
Royal Elmes	6.05	Timothy M. Leonard	6.53
Hiram Elmes	1.30	Albert T. Mason	5.48
Andrew Haskins	1.30	Amos B. Lesure	1.30

George Osburn	10.28	Ephraim Ward	19.06
Ephraim Pierce	4.18	Leonard Washburn	7.49
Nathan Reed	11.72	Benjamin Holloway	6.68
Enoch Haskins	6.29	Levi Reed	5.96
Seth Southworth	5.57	Luther C. Macomber	6.63
James Southworth	1.54	Enoch Southworth	6.72
Otis L. Tinkham	3.70		
Persons living out	of the territ	ory:	
Elaz Richmond	1.30	Martin V. Newton	4.76
Hercules Richmond	50.92	Leander A. Tinkham	1.44
Leonard Richmond	1.30	Luther L. Newton	1.64
Thomas P. Tinkham	14.16	Calvin Southworth	2.74
Albert A. Savery	5.96		
The neutral persor	is were:		
Libens Churchill	1.78	George Ward	12.34
Horatio Caswell	5.57	Joseph H. Leonard	7.88
Joshua Haskins	5.48	William Southworth	1.49
Austin Haskins	1.30	L. C. Macomber	6.68
Daniel Macomber	5.33		
Property not repres	sented:		
Mrs. Rhoda Chase	7.15	Miss Judith Nelson	17.52
Mrs. Abeyael Jackson	.72	Heirs of Phebe Nelson	1.20
Miss Betsey Kensley	.48	Mrs. Joanna Pierce	20.16
Mrs. Mary Leonard	3.60	Miss Abigal Southworth	1.54
Mrs. Susan Nelson	2.40	Estate of Ichabad Thomas	4.90
Miss Delana Sampson	.34		

When the Massachusetts Legislature had at last decided to grant the rights of a separate township to the southwesterly portion of Middleboro, notice was given the voters in that section to meet on Saturday, January 29, 1858, to ballot for a name for the new town. The meeting was held in the school house (afterwards known as the Washburn school), which stood at that time on the present site of the Lakeville Public Library. Bristol, Laketon and Nelson were some of the names selected, Nelson receiving the majority of votes in honor of Job Peirce Nelson, Esq., as it was principally due to his efficient efforts that the new township had been secured. The name, Bristol, was understood to have been proposed by Oliver Peirce, Esq. and Laketon was recommended by Austin J. Roberts. Mr. Nelson, who was the father of the late Sidney T. Nelson and grand-father of Clifton W. Nelson and Thomas Nelson, modestly

declined the honor and urged the acceptance of the name, Lakeville, as a compromise.

#### **SENATE** — No. 100

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IN SENATE, April 6, 1853.

The Joint Committee on Towns, to whom was recommitted a bill relating to the incorporation of the Town of Samoset, report the bill in a new draft.

THOS. WRIGHT, Chairman.

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Three.

#### AN ACT

# To Incorporate the Town of Lakeville

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- SECT. I. That portion of the town of Middle-
- borough lying within the following boundaries, to wit:
- beginning at the south-westerly corner of said town,
- at or in the line of the town of Freetown at an angle;
- thence running easterly in the line between said Mid-
- dleborough and the towns of Freetown and Rochester
- to a point equi-distant between Haskell's Island and
- Reed's Island, in Great Quitticus Pond; thence run-
- ning northerly across said Quitticus Pond to a point 9
- 10 upon Long Point, so called, five rods easterly from the
- bridge, at a stake; thence running northerly through 11
- the Narrows in Pockshire Pond to the junction of said 12
- pond with Assawampsett Pond; thence running north 13
- westerly in the said Assawampsett Pond to Nemasket 14
- River, where it runs from said Assawampsett Pond; 15 16
- thence running northerly down and following the channel of said river to the bridge of the Cape Cod 17
- 18 Branch Railroad across the same; thence running
- west five rods to an elm tree standing in the north

20 line of said railroad; thence running north thirty-five 21 degrees west fifty-four rods, to the north line of John 22 C. Reed's land; thence running in said Reed's line north fifty-three degrees west seventy rods to the main 24 road; thence running in the same course seven hun-25 dred and fourteen rods to Trout Brook, the line passing a white oak tree near Trout Brook, in Thomas P. 26 27 Tinkham's land, twenty links to the south thereof; 28 thence running down and following the channel of said 29 brook to the line of the town of Taunton; thence run-30 ning southerly and south-westerly in the line between 31 Taunton and Middleborough to the line of the town 32 of Freetown, and thence in the line and between Free-33 town and Middleborough, to the place of beginning, is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of Lakeville; and the inhabitants of said town of Lakeville are hereby invested with all the powers and 36 37 privileges, and shall be subjected to all the duties and 38 requisitions of other incorporated towns, according to 39 the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

SECT. 2. The inhabitants of said town of Lake-1 ville shall be holden to pay all arrears of taxes legally 2 3 assessed upon them before the passage of this act, and 4 also their proportion of such State and county taxes as may be legally assessed upon them before the next 6 State valuation, such proportion to be ascertained and determined by the last State valuation of property; 8 and all moneys now in the treasury of said town of 9 Middleborough, or which may hereafter be received 10 therein from taxes already assessed or directed to be assessed, shall be applied to the purposes for which 11 12 they were raised and assessed, in the same manner as 13 if this act had not been passed.

SECT. 3. The said towns of Middleborough and Lakeville shall hereafter be respectively liable for the support of all such persons who now are relieved or hereafter may be relieved as paupers, whose settlement was gained by or derived from a residence within their respective limits.

SECT. 4. The inhabitants of said town of Lake-ville shall be holden to pay their just proportion of all debts due from said town of Middleborough at the passage of this act; and shall receive their just proportion of the value of all property, real and personal, and of all assets, funds and stocks now owned by and belonging to the said town of Middleborough; and if said towns shall not agree in respect to a division of property, funds, stocks, debts, or State or

- county taxes, or the settlement of any pauper or paupers now supported by said town of Middleborough, the court of common pleas for the county of Plymouth shall, upon the petition of either town, appoint three competent and disinterested persons to hear the parties and award between them; and their award or the award of any two of them, being accepted by said court, shall be final.
- 1 The alewive fisheries of the Nemasket 2 River shall be and remain the property of said towns 3 of Middleborough and Lakeville, and the manner of taking said fish, and the whole management of said 4 fisheries, shall be regulated by the selectmen of said 5 towns; and the proceeds thereof shall be divided be-6 tween the said towns in proportion to the number of ratable polls in each, respectively, and the respective 8 parts of such proceeds shall be disposed of by said 9 towns, respectively, in such manner and for such pur-10 poses as each town shall for itself determine and 11 direct. 12
- That portion of the fire district hereto-SECT. 6. fore established by the inhabitants of the village or 2 district of "Middleborough Four Corners," which is within the limits of said town of Lakeville, is hereby 4 taken from said fire district, and the remaining por-5 tion of said fire district shall be and remain a fire dis-6 trict, with all the powers and privileges of such 7 districts, and all taxes heretofore assessed on any of 8 the inhabitants of the original district, shall be col-9 lected and applied to the purposes for which they 10 were assessed, in the same manner as if this act had 11 12 not been passed.
- SECT. 7. Said town of Lakeville shall continue to 1 2 be a part of the town of Middleborough, for the purpose 3 of electing State officers, senators, and representatives to the general court, representatives to congress, and 4 electors of president and vice-president of the United 5 States, until the next decennial census shall be taken, in pursuance of the thirteenth article of the amend-7 ment of the constitution; and meetings for the choice 8 of said officers shall be called by the selectmen of 9 Middleborough, and shall be holden in the town of 10 Middleborough; and the selectmen of Lakeville shall 11 make a true list of all persons within their town, 12 13 qualified to vote at every such election, and shall post 14 up the same in said town of Lakeville, and shall correct the same as required by law, and shall deliver a 15 16 true copy of the same to the selectmen of Middle-

17 borough, seven days at least before the day of every 18 such meeting or election, to be used thereat.

SECT. 8. Any justice of the peace for the county of Plymouth may issue his warrant, directed to any principal inhabitant of said town of Lakeville, requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants thereof qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the time and place therein appointed, for the purpose of choosing all such town officers as towns are by law authorized and required to choose at their annual meetings, and said warrant shall be served by posting up copies thereof, attested by the person to whom the same is 10 directed, in four public places at least, in said town, and fourteen days at least before the time of meeting. 12 The selectmen of Middleborough shall, before said meeting, prepare a list of voters in said town of Lakeville qualified to vote at said meeting, and shall deliver the same to the person presiding at said meeting, before the choice of moderator thereof. 17

1 Sect. 9. This act shall take effect from and after 2 its passage.

# -1180260

The first town meeting in Lakeville for the choice of town officers was held in the Washburn School House, on Saturday the 28th of May, 1853. The following named gentlemen were elected: Harrison Staples, moderator; Reuben Hafford, Esq., Ezra McCully and Nathaniel Sampson, selectmen and assessors; Isaac Sampson, town clerk; Eleazer Richmond, Job Peirce and Lieut.-Col. Ebenezer W. Peirce, overseers of the poor; Calvin Kingman, Harrison Staples and William T. Jenney, school committee. Earl S. Ashley and Abner C. Barrows were elected constables.

The first annual financial and school report of the Town of Lakeville for the year 1853, together with a schedule of the property, was as follows:

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

The finance committee, in compliance with a vote of the town, present the following statement of Receipts and Expenditures (etc.) and with the settlement with the treasurer, which they believe to be correct:

	ISAAC SAMPSON, Treasurer and Collector of L		
Dr.	To the amount of State, County and Town tax bill year 1853 including overlay	•••••	\$2,859.34
	To the amount received from Commonwealth, it town's proportion of School Fund		70.95
			\$2,930.29
	Isaac Sampson, Treasurer and Collector of L	akeville	
Cr.	By amount of taxes remitted  By amount of uncollected taxes  By amount allowed for prompt payment of taxes	\$13.50 116.28 219.21	\$985.64
	Division of Town		
	By E. P. Hathway's order for services in full for 1851-52-53 and part payment for 54	\$350.00 13.66	363.66
	Roads and Bridges		
	By orders for Repairs of County Road	\$54.14 29.18 10.00 3.50	96.82
	Schools		30.02
	By school orders drawn	•••••	1,026.50
	Support of Poor		
	By Southworth Jackson's board at M. Alms House in part  By Expenses of J. Shaws' family in Foxboro in part  By Expenses of Harriet Elmes at W. Hospital  By Expenses of Abagail Parris's board in New	\$2.25 48.71 58.49	
	Bedford  By Wood furnished Mrs. R. Sharp  By Wood furnished Isaac Parris  By supplies furnished Mrs. Grafton	3.28 5.39 9.00 4.00	
	Amount carried forward	\$131.12	
	By Funeral Expenses of L. B. Sampson in part By Board of Lois Reed at Levi Reed's By supplies to family of J. C. Bly, New Bedford	1.25 35.00 9.00	176.37
	Town Officers and Incidental Expense	ES	
	By paid Assessors	\$40.50	

By paid School Committee:	
H. Staples \$6.50	
C. D. Kingman 6.00	
W. T. Jenney 6.50	
<del></del> 19.00	
By paid Selectinen 3.00	
By paid Committee on Roads and Bridges	
By paid Overseers of Poor:	
E. Richmond \$4.00	
E. W. Peirce	
J. Peirce 7.78	
20.53	
By paid Incidental Expenses, including books of	
Record, Blanks and recording, etc	
Record, Dianks and recording, etc	110.44
	110.44
	\$9.750.40
D 1	\$2,759.40
Balance of cash in the Treasury April 29th, 1854	170.89
	<u>~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~</u>
	\$2,930.29
THE FOLLOWING ADE LINDAID BILLS AGAINST THE TREASURY	

#### THE FOLLOWING ARE UNPAID BILLS AGAINST THE TREASURY

Balances in favor of school districts	\$43.00
Overseers bills to March 20th, as by report	163.60
Treasurer's Salary	

Sundry bills on account of Division and opposing the petition of T. Doggett and others.

The Town of Lakeville has advanced between three and four hundred dollars to pay bills jointly due by Lakeville and Middleboro.

Nearly the entire amount of joint bills are now paid — the money to pay the above was principally derived from right in fisheries, railroad stock and income of farm; none of the money passed through the Treasury of Lakeville.

A. T. HERVEY

T. LEONARD

N. Sampson

E. RICHMOND

Lakeville, May 1st, 1854

#### SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY OF LAKEVILLE

From sales of town lands and alms house sales of personal property and etc., four hundred sixty-nine dollars and eighteen cents have been received, which in absence of special instructions has been invested, for the present as follows:

One note against J. P. Nelson	\$100.00
One note against Sidney Tucker	100.00
One note against H. Staples	100.00
One note against William Harlow	150.00
Balance in hands of N. Sampson	19.18

Three lots of woodland situated in Middleboro containing about 28 acres valued at about ... 400.00

Twenty-nine shares of F.R.R.R. stock at \$100.00 ... 2,900.00

Two shares of C.C.R.R. stock worth now about \$50.00 ... 100.00

\$3,869.18

In addition, Lakeville has her right in herring fisheries: Her proportion in monies collected from Tax Bills:

In hands of J. B. Shaw In hands of E. Robinson

A share in the Town House.

About \$12 in School Books in hands of A. G. Alden. And some bills of small amount to be collected by Middleboro.

H. STAPLES, Clerk of Com. of Settlement

The Town of Lakeville has been served well since 1853 by the following town officers:

#### TOWN CLERKS

Isaac Sampson, May 28, 1853, to March 25, 1854
Deacon Horatio Nelson, March 28, 1854, to April 2, 1855
Isaac Sampson, April 2, 1855, to March 3, 1856
William T. Jenney, March 3, 1856, to March 7, 1859
James M. Sampson, March 7, 1859, to Sept. 22, 1862
Lieut. Churchill T. Westgate, Sept. 22, 1862, to March 1883
Lieut. James M. Sampson, April, 1883, to March 1884
Jones Godfrey, March 24, 1884, to 1885
Orin E. Haskins, 1886 to 1899
Ernest C. Harvey, 1900 to 1922
Frank B. Williams, Assistant Town Clerk, 1922 to 1923
John G. Paun, 1923 to present time

# SELECTMEN AND ASSESSORS

Reuben Hafford Esq., 1853 - 1872 Ezra McCully, 1853 Nathaniel Sampson, 1853 Earl Sears, 1854

John Sampson, 1854 - 1855

Job T. Tobey, 1854 - 1859, then 1861 - 1862 and 1866

Nathan S. Williams, 1855

John Montgomery, 1856 - 1857 and 1868

Isaac Sampson, 1856

Cephas Haskins, 1857 - 1858, 1862 - 1865

Zattu Pickens, 1858 - 1859

Thomas Doggett Esq., 1859 and 1860

Elisha H. Williams, 1860

Asa T. Winslow Esq., 1860

Eleazer Richmond, 1861

Charles H. Sampson, 1861 - 1862 and 1864

Job Peirce Esq., 1863 - 1865

Capt. Elisha G. Cudworth, 1863

Silas D. Pickens, 1865

Myrick Haskins, 1866

Leander Winslow, 1866 - 1867

Warren H. Southworth, 1867

Josiah B. Bump, 1867

Benjamin H. Reed, 1868 - 1870, 1874 - 1877 and 1879

Edward W. Hackett, 1868

James P. Peirce, 1869 - 1870, 1873 - 1875 and 1881

Horatio Tinkham, 1869

Henry L. Williams Esq., 1870

Sidney T. Nelson, 1871 - 1873, 1879 and 1881

Leonard Washburn Esq., 1871 - 1874

John Shaw, 1876 - 1879, 1881 - 1882, 1884 - 1885

Leonard Richmond, 1876 - 1877

Jones Godfrey, 1878

Josiah F. Tinkham, 1878

Gustavus G. Andrews, 1883 - 1885 (from January to March 18)

John H. Paun, 1883 - 1893

George S. Haskins, 1885, 1887 - 1895

Thomas F. Hafford, 1886, 1888, 1890 - 1893

Zebulon L. Canedy, 1894, 1901 - 1907 and 1915 (Jan. to Mar.)

Orin E. Haskins, 1894 - 1901 (Jan. to Mar.)

Fred A. Shockley, 1895, for 44 consecutive years, resigned in 1939

Nathaniel G. Staples, 1896 - 1901 (Jan. to Mar.)

Ernest C. Harvey, 1904 - 1916 (Jan. to Mar.)

Frank B. Williams, 1915, to Dec. 2, 1939

Alton T. Hoard, 1916 - 1921

Howard S. Reynolds, 1939 - 1940

Chester Ashley, 1922 - 1951 (resigned)

Henry L. Pember, 1940 - 1950 (resigned April 1)

Wallace C. Wilkie, 1941 to present time

Ralph W. Baker, elected June 19, 1950, to present time

Harry G. Norris, elected 1951, to present time

In 1875 there was one vacancy as the person chosen declined.

In 1884, C. T. Westgate was assessor and Gustavus G. Andrews was selectman. Mr. Andrews served as selectman until March 18, 1885 at which time George S. Haskins was elected to fill both offices for the remainder of the year. We find that Orin E. Haskins was selectman and assessor as well as town clerk for several years. Ernest C. Harvey was selectman and assessor for 12 years and part of that time he was also town clerk. Chester Ashley continues at the present time to serve as clerk of the board of assessors and as assistant assessor.

# INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS AND INSPECTOR OF SLAUGHTERING

From available records William Nelson, who landed in Plymouth in 1633, was appointed Cow Keeper, as previously mentioned, a position of trust.

Records reveal the following inspectors through the years:

Inspector of Animals —

Isaac Sampson, 1896

John Cudworth, 1915

Edward P. Harvey, 1920 - 1923

Edgar C. Peck, 1924 to the present time

Inspector of Slaughtering —

Alton T. Hoard, 1915

Edward P. Harvey, 1915, 1920 - 1921

Edgar C. Peck, 1922 to the present time

#### SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

A Sealer of Weights and Measures was appointed in 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1874, but nearly fifty years elapsed before the position is again recorded:

Cyrus Washburn, 1870 - 1872, 1874 Sylvanus T. LeBaron, 1920 - 1921 Louis C. Littlejohn, 1922 John Kelly, 1923 - 1946 Frank T. Orrall, 1947 to the present time

#### FOREST WARDENS

Lakeville's first Forest Warden was Nathan F. Washburn in 1914. The first year there were eleven fires, which were extinguished at a cost of \$76.61. Forest Wardens through the years have been:

Nathan F. Washburn, 1914 - 1925
Maurice Washburn, 1925 - 1926
William Day, 1926 - 1930
Sampson McFarlin, 1930 - 1933
Frank T. Orrall, 1933 - 1946
Sampson McFarlin, 1946 - 1947
Charles L. Weston, 1947 - 1950

Edmund S. Knysinski, 1950 to the present time

#### BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS

In 1949 the first Board of Fire Engineers was appointed and the same board has served for 1950, 1951 and 1952:

Walter A. D. Clark, Chairman Edward DeMello, Clerk Joseph Gladu Harold Hemmingson Edmund S. Knysinski, Fire Chief Frank T. Orrall Charles L. Weston, Deputy Chief

# TREE WARDENS

Records show the following Tree Wardens:

Nathan F. Washburn, 1920 - 1925

Leavitt C. Caswell, 1925 - 1931

Howard S. Maher, 1931 to the present time

#### MOTH SUPERINTENDENTS

Moth control has been under the superintendency of five men since 1920:

Leavitt C. Caswell, 1920 - 1934

Antone P. Santos, 1934 - 1935

Everett E. Charron, 1936 - 1945

Charles C. Charron, 1945 - 1952

Howard S. Maher, at the present time

#### FINANCE COMMITTEES

Clifton W. Nelson, Chairman, 1938 - 1941

N. Merrill Sampson, 1938 - 1940

Joseph C. Turner, 1938 - 1940

Leroy G. Wilkie, 1938 - 1941

Maurice W. Washburn, 1938 - 1941

Ray E. Arnaud, 1940

Perley M. Sleeper, 1941 - 1943

Paul V. Hotz, 1941, Chairman, 1942 - 1947

William J. Begley, 1942 - 1948

Harry Norris, 1942 - 1947 and Chairman in 1948

Clarence W. Staples, 1942 - 1946

Russell L. Haskins, 1945 - 1947

Leslie H. Norton, 1947 - 1948

Edmund S. Knysinski, 1948

Harold L. Griffith, 1948 - 1949

Frank J. Dow, 1949 - 1950

Albert H. Heineck, Chairman, 1949 - 1950

Maurice L. Vinal, 1949

John Giberti, 1949 - 1950

Arsene Berube, 1950 to the present time

Ray C. Delano, 1951 to the present time Bertram A. Manton, 1950 - 1951 William Smith, 1950 to the present time Alfred Nelson, 1952 Leroy Washburn, 1952

#### **AUDITORS**

Auditors of the Town of Lakeville since its incorporation in 1853, have been:

Uriah Sampson, .1870 - 1875

Eli W. Williams, 1882 - 1886

Sprague S. Stetson, 1887

H. L. Williams, 1889 - 1890

Elton L. Pratt, 1902

Jones Godfrey, 1896 - 1899

Elbridge Cushman, 1899 (from March to August)

John G. Paun, 1903 - 1923 (twenty years)

Clarence M. Gurney, 1924 - 1953 (twenty-nine years)

#### FISH WARDENS

As far back as 1865 John Dean was Pickerel Agent for the Town of Lakeville. The same year Mr. Dean was also Fish Warden, and he held that office from 1869 to 1874 and again in 1880.

In 1874, one hundred and fifty black bass were put into Elder's Pond, at the cost of one dollar each. In 1880, twenty thousand salmon fry were put into Assawompsett Pond.

Fish Wardens, serving in those early years in addition to Mr. Dean were:

H. B. Coombs, 1869

John B. Coombs, 1870 - 1873

John Cudworth, 1869 - 1875, 1877 - 1880

D. F. Williams

William A. Coombs, 1880

Philander P. Peirce, 1880

Davis Pickens, 1880

Beginning in 1880, there is a lapse of many years before the Fish Wardens are again recorded. From 1943 to 1952 the following are listed:

Nelson W. Sherman, 1943

Henry L. Pember, 1943 - 1948

Merle C. Washburn, 1949

C. Leonard Reed, 1943 to the present time

John E. Reed, 1944 to the present time

Charles L. Weston, 1951 to the present time

#### OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

At the first Town Meeting held May 28, 1853, Eleazer Richmond, Job Peirce and Lieut.-Col. Ebenezer W. Peirce were elected as Overseers of the Poor.

The cost of the welfare is and always has been next to the cost of running the schools.

In the first annual report for the support of the poor the cost was \$176.37, the recommended budget for 1952 being \$53,100.

John Shaw first registered as a pauper in Lakeville in 1853 and he was boarded at Jirah Winslow's, on Peirce Avenue, at \$1.25 per week in the summer and \$1.50 in winter.

Abigail Parris first registered in 1853 and was boarded at Andrew McGee's on what is now Pickens Street, at \$1.50 per week.

In 1853, John London, the oldest inhabitant, supposed to be 103 years old, was aided to a limited extent.

It was in 1927 that the Overseers of the Poor became the Board of Public Welfare with Alton R. Rogers, John G. Paun and Nathaniel G. Staples as its members.

In 1932 there appeared a report of the Board of Public Welfare and one for the Bureau of Old Age Assistance. The members for both being John G. Paun, Alton R. Rogers and Bethiah M. Williams.

In 1940 the Board of Public Welfare, Old Age Assistance and Aid to Dependent Children were combined and one Board of members served all three. In 1952 another category was added: that of Disability Assistance.

It might be of interest to note the number of tramps, who, in some reports, are listed as travelers. In 1872, there were 67 tramps fed at a cost of \$50.25. In 1874, 162 travelers were cared for at the cost of \$114.25; while the next year, 1875, the same number, 162 tramps, were fed for only \$86.25. 1876 seemed to be a big year for tramps, because 410 were cared for. In 1900, Len Canedy fed 77 tramps at a cost of \$19.25, making the cost of each \$.25, while in 1872, the 67 tramps cost an average of \$.72 each.

In 1948, the three groups were under the supervision of the Selectmen and Warren C. Gurney was hired as the agent. Mr. Gurney has served as such since that time.

Here is a complete list of the members and the dates:

J. S. Hersey, 1859

J. T. Tobey, 1859

C. H. Sampson, 1861

Jirah Winslow, 1862 - 1865, 1868 - 1869

Job Peirce, 1862 - 1863, 1865 - 1868, 1872 - 1873, 1878 - 1879

Tisdale Leonard, 1862

Eleazer Richmond, 1864 - 1865, 1869, 1871 - 1874

M. Haskins, 1866 - 1867

C. E. Jenney, 1867 - 1868

James P. Peirce, 1867 - 1868, 1871 - 1873, 1875, 1879 - 1883

Frederick Leonard, 1867 - 1869

Zattu Pickens, 1872 - 1873

J. M. Godfrey, 1874

C. Haskins, 1874, 1883 - 1888, 1890, 1892 - 1893, 1896

Dennis Tinkham, 1875 - 1876

Sylvanus Sampson, 1875 - 1876

Leonard Richmond, 1876 - 1877

William Canedy, 1877 - 1878

Job M. Staples, 1877 - 1878

Eli W. Williams, 1878

Silas D. Pickens, 1879 - 1883

Leonard Washburn, 1880 - 1883

John Shaw, 1883-1910, a period of 27 years

Davis Pickens, 1883 - 1888

T. W. Canedy, 1886 - 1887

Sidney T. Nelson, 1890

Joseph DeMaranville, 1890 - 1922, a period of 32 years

Zebulon L. Canedy, 1892 - 1920, a period of 28 years

T. F. Hafford, 1892 - 1893

George S. Haskins, 1895

Alton R. Rogers, 1911-1938, a period of 27 years

Ernest C. Harvey, 1920 - 1922

John G. Paun, 1923 - 1948, a period of 25 years

Nathaniel G. Staples, 1924, 1926 - 1929

Bethiah Williams, 1931 - 1947, a period of 16 years

John E. Reed, 1939-1947, a period of 18 years

Wallace C. Wilkie, 1948 to the present time

Chester Ashley, 1948 - 1951 (resigned)

Henry L. Pember, 1948 - 1950 (resigned April 1)

Ralph W. Baker, 1950 to the present time

Harry G. Norris, 1952 to the present time

#### CONSTABLES

At the first Town Meeting held May 28, 1853, Earl S. Ashley and Abner C. Barrows were elected constables.

Constables serving the Town of Lakeville down through the years have been:

Churchill T. Westgate, 1859, 1863 - 1864

Thomas T. Spooner, Jr., 1859, 1863 - 1865

H. B. Coombs, 1872 - 1874, 1892

John Cudworth, 1865 - 1880 (15 years)

John Dean, 1869, 1871 - 1875

C. E. Jenney, 1863 - 1864

J. H. Shaw, 1866

Davis Pickens, 1877 - 1880, 1882, 1884 - 1885, 1887 - 1888, 1890

William B. Aldrich, 1888

Sidney McCully, 1881

Fred A. Shaw, 1890 - 1892, 1894

Zebulon L. Canedy, 1890 - 1893

William H. Elwell, 1891

Joseph DeMaranville, 1893 - 1922 (29 years)

L. C. Caswell, 1896

Alton R. Rogers, 1915 - 1938 (23 years)

W. Clarence Washburn, 1915 - 1919

Alton T. Hoard, 1920 - 1923

H. Elmer Brown, 1923 - 1929

John E. Reed, 1924 to the present time

John Kelly, 1930 - 1948 (18 years)

George Mills, 1939 - 1944

Charles L. Weston, 1945 to the present time

C. Leonard Reed, 1948 to the present time

It was in 1949 that John S. Erwin was appointed Acting Chief of Police and he has served since that time.



BOARD OF SELECTMEN, 1952

Ralph W. Baker

Harry G. Norris

Wallace C. Wilkie

# DID YOU KNOW -

In the fall of 1949 the ponds and lakes were very low and many wells went dry. Remember the water boy? He had large cans of lake water which he delivered each night for a small fee.

\* \* \* \*

The private school for girls, called Hay-Hall, was not conducted at the Jewett Place on the old Turnpike. The Jewett Place was moved from its foundation — but "Hay-Hall was eventually burned down," according to a statement found in Caroline Leonard Goodenough's book, "Legends, Loves and Loyalties of Old New England." Just a little south of the cellar of the Jewett Place is another cellar, where once stood the home of the Haskells. Mrs. Goodenough mentions Hay-Hall and the Haskell family many times. Elder Mark Haskell, who died in 1785 at the age of seventy-six, was the first to be buried in the Haskell Cemetery, a short distance beyond the Jewett Place toward Rochester.

\* \* \* \*

Lydia Squin, an Indian at Betty's Neck, came to the Nelson's and requested Stephen Nelson, who was a minister, to come down to the sick Indians and preach.

\* \* \* \*

Job P. Nelson conducted a stage line from Wareham to Lakeville where it connected with the stagecoach running from New Bedford to Boston.

# CHAPTER III

#### THE NELSON FAMILY—HOUSE AND FARM

ATT OFFICE OF THE PARTY OF THE

HE NELSON FAMILY was among the first to arrive on Massachusetts soil. A direct descendant of the first Nelson who settled in Lakeville, then Middleboro, though seven generations removed, was Sidney Tucker

Nelson, who occupied the Nelson homestead. The house is located on Bedford street, about one and one-half miles south of the Town House. This property was in control of the family for over two centuries.

The records of the Nelson family have been carefully compiled under the title "Ancestral Echoes." William Nelson of Scrooby, England, came to Plymouth in 1633. From the first, this Nelson was prominent among the Pilgrims, and their confidence in him was demonstrated by his appointment as cowkeeper, then considered a position of trust. He married Martha Ford. Their son was William Nelson the second. His grave, the location of which was unknown for many years, was discovered about fifty years ago at the Green Cemetery in Middleboro close to the First Congregational Church.

The first record of the Nelson family in Lakeville was in 1714, Lakeville being at that time still a part of Middleboro, when Thomas Nelson and his wife, Hope Higgins, came here to live. They bartered with the Indians and secured a tract of about 150 acres of land from John Sassamon, Jr., a son of John Sassamon, an Indian missionary who was murdered in 1675. On this tract of land secured from Sassamon, the first of the Nelsons settled and built a log cabin close beside the site of the present homestead. Here Thomas and his wife, Hope, passed their days; she living to the age of 105, burning to death accidentally as she fell into the kitchen fireplace of the house.

After the first log cabin, a portion of the present house was built, and from time to time additions were made to this house till in 1793 it attained its present proportions.

For ten years the first family of Nelsons lived in comparative comfort. In 1724, death removed Amos Nelson, the first of the family to die. He was also the first white person to die in Lakeville, then Middleboro, and he was the first to be buried in the Nelson burying ground.

From the Nelson records we find that Thomas Nelson (3), son of William (2), was born May 17, 1675, in the first Precinct, Middleboro, which in 1853 became Lakeville. He married Hope Higgins sometime around 1698, and died March 28, 1755. Mrs Hope Nelson died on December 7, 1782, in her 106th year. Hannah (4) was born April 10, 1699, and married a clergyman, Jabez Wood, on January 20, 1719.

Hope (4) was born December 23, 1700.

Lois (4) was born August 19, 1704. She married Jedediah Thomas of East Middleboro on March 12, 1724.

Amos (4) died in January, 1724, at the age of five years.

John (4) died July 6, 1732, in the 30th year of his age.

Eben (4) died in April, 1745, at the age of 25.

Foxel (4) died May 13, 1745, aged 28 years.

Lieut. Thomas (4) was born April 12, 1710, and died March 7, 1768, at the age of 57 years. His widow, Mrs. Judith Peirce, died January 21, 1792, at the age of 82 years.

William (4), son of Thomas Nelson, it is believed, owned the farm south of the Nelson Homestead which, in 1895, was the Cudworth Farm. He married Elizabeth Howland, who died in her 91st year, on April 20, 1805.

Deacon Amos (5), son of William (4), was born in 1743, and died November 11, 1795. He married Eunice Pierce, May 25, 1769, who died when she was 39 years old, May 27, 1783.

Rev. William (5), another son of William (4), was born July 18, 1741; ordained at Norton, November 12, 1772; died April

#### THE NELSON FAMILY — HOUSE AND FARM

11, 1806. Hannah, his wife, was born in 1752 and died November 24, 1829.

Rev. Eben (5) was born October 26, 1752, and was ordained at Norton on November 10, 1790.

Rev. Ebenezer (5), son of William (4), preached at Malden, South Reading, Norton, and Middleboro. He is buried in Malden. His wife, Chloe, was born in 1757 and died March 20, 1795.

Rev. Samuel (5) was born April 6, 1748, and died September 9, 1822. His wife, Charity, was born in 1751 and died 1787. He preached at the Rock and also in Raynham where he is buried.

Samuel (6), son of Rev. William (5), was born in 1779 and died September 9, 1831. His wife, Sally, was born in 1783 and died January 30, 1835. They had eleven children. Sally was the sister of General Ephraim Ward of West Middleboro, which is now Lakeville. Very large, beautiful Italian marble stones mark the graves of Samuel and Sally.

Joshua S. (7), son of Samuel (6), died August 17, 1831, in his seventeenth year.

William (7), another son of Samuel (6), died about 1845 at the age of 40 years. He married .................................. Kingsley. He owned the William Nelson (4) Farm, which afterwards was sold to Captain Elisha G. Cudworth, a whaling captain, of New Bedford.

Mary (5), daughter of William (4), was born in 1747 and died in 1772.

Lieut. Abner (5), son of William (4), was born in 1754 and died February 16, 1816.

Other children belonging to Samuel (6) and Sally Nelson were Mary and Sarah (7), twins, born about 1810; Hannah, who married ....... Everett of Wareham, had no children; Sarah (7), who married James Holmes of Boonton, New Jersey, had a son Samuel Nelson (8). He graduated from West Point and later was married. He was accidentally burned to death in a hotel. Mary (7), who married Chandler Ward of Hartford, Conn., had no children.

Isaac (6), the son of Deacon Amos (5) and his wife Eunice, was born about 1770 or 1772. He married Abigail Briggs of Middleboro.

Hannah (6), sister of Isaac (6), married Rev. Ebenezer Briggs of Middleboro and lived on the north side of the farm next to the Homestead.

Polly (6), sister of Hannah and Isaac (6), lived with her niece, Mrs. Ezra Thomas in Cleveland, Ohio. She was not married.

Amos (6) married ...... Sampson of Fairhaven.

In these records we find that Eben Nelson and Sam Perkins accompanied Isaac on a trip to Plymouth to get his father's will approved. Amos Nelson (5), and his son Isaac (6), lived at Assawompsett Neck. It is not certain whether they lived at the Westgate place, the A. Cole place, or Briggs place, however.

Charles (7), son of Isaac (6), and his second wife, Elizabeth, died at the age of one year, four months and five days, on June 18, 1806. Cephas (7), another son, lived with Daniel Briggs of Lakeville.

Col. Nathaniel (6), of New Bedford, proprietor of the Mansion House, was either the son of Rev. William (5), or the son of Ebenezer (5), the brother of William (5). He married Hannah Smith, the niece of Anna Smith, who married Thomas Nelson (5). There were several children in the Col. Nathaniel Nelson family. The daughters were Charlotte (7), who was born May 3, 1812 and died September 15, 1891. She was unmarried. Abby S. (7), born in 1820, died July 29, 1868. She married George B. Richmond, who was later Mayor of New Bedford. They were childless. Sons born to Col. Nathaniel and wife were Albert (7), who married but had no children; George (7), an auctioneer, who married Mary A. Eastman. They had a daughter, Marianna, who married Major Garnett of the United States Army. Later he served with the Confederates. A third son, Nathaniel Francis (7), married Ruth Eastman and lived in Lockport, New York.

Rev. Ebenezer (6), son of William (5), married either Rebecca Childe or her sister Ruth. They had several children, both sons and daughters, and among these, twins. Rev. Ebenezer was

#### THE NELSON FAMILY — HOUSE AND FARM

pastor of the Baptist Church of Middleboro Center for many years, around 1840.

Lieut. Thomas (4) and Judith, his wife, of the Nelson Homestead, were blessed with both sons and daughters.

Col. John (5), who served in the Revolution, was born October 25, 1737, and died December 28, 1820. He married Hope Rounsville on November 5, 1760. They lived two miles north of the old homestead. Their house was located across from the present Assawompsett School.

Thomas (5) lived at the Homestead. He was born February 22, 1739, and died September 21, 1819. He married Anna Smith of Taunton. She died October 14, 1828. Their children were the following: Judith (6), who died at the age of 13 months on March 31, 176 ...; Job (6), born in 1766, died in 1850. Thomas (5) was called Uncle Tommy; he was rather short and worked hard himself and with others in laying a great stretch of stone wall on the farm. He wore a leather apron while working on the wall.

Dr. Thomas (6) was born in 1770 and died in 1814. He married Susan Shepherd, October 25, 1794. She died April 23, 1802. He re-married her sister, Nancy Shepherd, on December 12, 1802. Nancy was born April 5, 1779, and died October 9, 1850.

Rev. Stephen (6) was born October 5, 1773, and died at an old age.

Abiel (6) was born 1777 and died 1829. He married Sally Peirce, November 17, 1803. He died of consumption of which his two daughters, Elizabeth Peirce and Mary Harding, also died a few months later.

Abigail (5), daughter of Thomas (4), was born July 1, 1742, and died July 11, 1830. She married Andrew Cole and lived on the second farm south of the Homestead. They had no children. Uncle Cole, in about 1840 in his last illness, was brought to the farm of Job Peirce Nelson (7) and there he died. He left his property for the "spread of the Gospel". It is thought that

Andrew Cole married a second wife, Mary Harding, whom he also survived.

Judith (5), daughter of Thomas (4), was born March 5, 1743, and died March 23, 1806. She married Roger Haskell, February 25, 1765. They lived at Hay Hall, two miles south of her father's place. Their son was Elder Mark Haskell. Roger Haskell was drowned in Great Quittacus Pond, through the ice, on his way to church.

Elizabeth (5) was born in 1750. She married Lieut. Robert Strobridge, of the Strobridge neighborhood. He died in 1790, or about that time, leaving a son, Robert, and a daughter Anna, who married Job Peirce, Jr., of Middleboro and Assonet, on January 3, 1799. He was a very prominent and popular business man. They had no children. He died September 22, 1805. Later his widow married Lieut. John Hinds of Freetown.

Hiram (6), son of John (5), was born in 1765 and died February 1, 1838.

Polly Nelson, wife of Hiram (6), was born in 1767 and died August 15, 1838.

Ezra (6), son of Col. John (5), was born in 1773 and died July 25, 1803. His wife, Abigail, was born in 1778 and died April 25, 1844.

John (6), son of Col. John (5), was born in 1771 and died August 10, 1828. His wife, Phebe, was born in 1766 and died August 27, 1844.

Judith (6), daughter of Col. John (5), was born September 6, 1769, and died December 31, 1858. She never married and always lived at her father's house.

Horatio (7), son of Ezra (6), lived and died in Lakeville, next house and farm, west and north of Col. John Nelson's, corner of Precinct and Pickens Streets. He was unmarried; lost a leg above the knee by an accident; was an ardent religious man and a Baptist deacon who often conducted religious services. He died about 1870, being between 60 to 70 years old.

Cyrus (7), son of Hiram (6), was married twice and survived both wives. He was born about 1790 and died about 1870. He lived a mile east toward Middleboro from Col. John Nelson (5), at what later was known as the Nelson Sisters, Hannah and Mary.

John Hiram (8) was born February 7, 1829, and died December 15, 1912. He lived on the same farm. He married Mary Dean Williams, January 1, 1857. She was born in 1836 and died in 1930. They had children: Chester W. (9). Hannah K. (9) was born September 9, 1860, and died May 4, 1949. Fannie E. (9) was born in 1863; in 1885, married Rueben A. Gibbs. Mary L. (9) was born July 26, 1870. Lucy A. (9).

Bethsheba (7), daughter of Ezra (6), married Abiel Sampson of Lakeville and lived at north limit of Assawompsett Lake, just south of Col. John Nelson's farm.

James married and lived in Middleboro.

Horatio and Angelina owned and occupied the house built by Col. John (5). They had a brother Abiel Sampson, who married and lived in Providence; a sister, Mrs. Abby Clark of Providence, and a sister, Mrs. James McDonald of Portland, Oregon.

Job Peirce Nelson (7) was born October 17, 1806, and died December 3, 1862. He married Fatima Baker, of Upton, October 3, 1834. She died February 12, 1871. He was chiefly instrumental in the setting off of the Town of Lakeville from Middleboro.

Abiel Ward Nelson (8) was born August 24, 1835, and he lived in New London, Conn. He was a graduate of the medical department of Harvard University and at one time attended Brown University. In 1862 he was assistant surgeon of the 18th Massachusetts Volunteers, in service in Virginia. He married Jeanie C. Salter, November 23, 1875. She was born October 1, 1849, and died September 9, 1893.

Elizabeth Peirce Nelson (8) was born December 8, 1836, and she, with her sister Caroline, were farmers owning and occupying the old homestead.

Thomas M. Nelson (8) was born July 28, 1840. He studied law but never practiced; lived in Chicago and was not married.



THE NELSON BROTHERS

Thomas M.

Dr. Abiel W.

Sidney T.

Sidney T. Nelson (8) was born August 12, 1845, and died August 26, 1919. He married first Emma Parkhurst on June 13, 1872. They had the following children: Thomas S. Nelson (9), born January 14, 1874, who married Lillian M. Thomas of Middleboro on October 31, 1898. She was born in 1874 and died in July, 1951. They lived in Boston and summered at Long Pond. Maude Nelson (9) was born February 19, 1875, and died January 1949. She married Dr. Harry Lee in 1898 and they had a daughter, Marjorie (10), who was born in August, 1901. Clifton W. Nelson (9) was born June 28, 1878. He married Mary Elliott, November 6, 1904.

Emma Nelson, first wife of Sidney, died August 1, 1881. On November 9, 1886, he married Elizabeth Parkhurst, sister of Emma. There were no children by his second wife. Caroline B. Nelson (8), daughter of Job B. Nelson (7), was born June 25, 1849, and died April 9, 1894, at the old homestead, rather suddenly, though she had been long an invalid.

Mary Harding (7), daughter of Abiel (6), was born April 23, 1809, and died of consumption May 12, 1831, and was not married.

Abiel S. (7), son of Abiel (6), was born July 28, 1810, and died November 24, 1811.

Sarah (7), daughter of Abiel (6), was born December 29, 1812. She married Sidney Tucker of Lakeville, then Middleboro. She died August 2, 1889. Sarah and Sidney Tucker were the donors of the land on which Grove Chapel now stands.

Mary (8), daughter of Sarah, was born June 21, 1842. She married Benjamin Baker of Brewster. They had one son, Sidney T. Baker, who was born September 15, 1873.

Thomas Sidney, Jr. (10) was born December 16, 1900, and he married Doris Williams. They had two sons: Thomas William (11) was born August 18, 1943. Richard Tucker (11), who died December 23, 1950, at the age of 31/2 years. Sidney (10) was born in 1906 and he married Gladys B. Ball on April 14, 1934. C. Elliott (10) was born June 2, 1908, and is not married. He lives with his father and mother near the old homestead.

The story of house-building in the early days is very interesting and the accounts of these structures present a striking contrast with the methods of today. In the olden days, when the Nelson families built their first homes, all that was required were cooperative neighbors and plenty of refreshments to encourage the workers. In the old family records pertaining to the cost of building a house, the price of lumber does not appear, the lumber being cut off the farm and prepared for use with the help of the neighbors. The only expense recorded was for entertainment and the record of this expenditure was carefully kept.

The old house, which has sheltered the family for over two centuries, is without doubt one of the most interesting, and its treasures constitute a complete museum of colonial relics.



SIDNEY T. NELSON HOMESTEAD

On entering the house, one is impressed with the striking style of architecture peculiar to the earlier residences. The hall appears spacious, though it is not large. From it leads a pair of winding stairs, the balustrade being made of wood carved by hand from trees grown on the farm.

The Nelsons had many interesting and valuable relics and took considerable pride in them. Included in the collection were articles of every sort, some pieces of which are rarely seen today. A large collection of English delft occupied a position of honor in the house. Some of the specimens were among the first brought to this country. There were also two pewter salvers, which were the property of Col. John Nelson, and bore the inscription: "J. N. 1760". A massive grandfather clock ticked the hours away from its position in the dining room, having warned the family of the passing hours for years. A mirror was a family treasure for more than two centuries.

It is known that porridge was a favorite dish with the early settlers and a pewter set, with lead spoons, made from colonial bullets, complete a collection of tableware used in serving it. There was also a pewter cider tankard similar to the one now on exhibition at Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth.

#### THE NELSON FAMILY — HOUSE AND FARM

There was also a fine collection of mahogany furniture, including highboys, sofas, and other articles of furniture. Though not made of mahogany there was an old desk, a written history of which was found in a secret drawer.

Occupying an attractive place in the parlor was a shingle, which was placed on the latest addition to the house in 1795. It was taken off in 1890, after having shed the rain and snow for ninety-five years and was still in good condition. The shingle, gotten out by hand, was taken off and attractively painted.

The remains of a family custom of the Nelsons is seen in a silver marriage token, which was used at marriages. It is a diagram of a large heart, made by the intersection of two smaller ones and cut out in the center, showing a single heart, made from the two and bearing the inscription: "We Are One". Its significance is apparent, bespeaking the unity and dignity of the family.

The Nelsons were a very religious and industrious family, for we find among the records that there were several ministers, a lawyer, and two or three doctors. Many of them also held offices of trust in the town.

An early industry of this family was taking the iron ore from Assawompsett Lake; the ore being fished up from the bottom of the pond with tongs and taken to the shore in boats. Then it was carted to the furnace to be melted into various articles, such as cannon and ball, during the Revolutionary War, and for other purposes later.

At the Homestead, farming was carried on extensively. Strawberries and other vegetables were shipped to Boston by stagecoach. Later they were carried daily to the Lakeville Station to be shipped by train to Boston. Hundreds of quarts of milk, as well as cream, were shipped to New Bedford by the electric cars. Vegetables from the farm were likewise taken to New Bedford by horse and wagon and peddled from store to store.

In 1945 Mr. and Mrs. Edward DeMello of New Bedford, Mass., purchased the Nelson Homestead which they have restored to its original beauty, making it one of the most attractive homes in Lakeville.

# DID YOU KNOW -

According to a story handed down, Gabriel was due to sound his trumpet near Lake Assawompsett. This would be the signal to his followers to assemble on the high point of Shockley's Hill, that their time was at hand. This was in 1849. Followers of the belief were garbed in the flowing robes they had spent much time in preparing. Some of the people had disposed of their property. Others had neglected their farms. They waited on the hill all night but nothing happened, so the next morning the company dispersed and went back to their various duties.

\* \* \* \*

For a short time Job Peirce Nelson, the father of Sidney T. Nelson and grandfather of Clifton W. and Thomas Nelson, was associated with Eben Briggs in the manufacture of straw goods.

\* \* \* \*

The stagecoach from New Bedford to Boston also stopped at the Old Henry Pratt House at the corner of Taunton Road and the Turnpike.

\* \* \* \*

Horatio G. Wood, Abiel Washburn, Thomas Weston and Levi Peirce were promoters of a scheme to build a canal from the northern part of Assawompsett Pond to connect with the Nemasket River near Vaughan's bridge, for a water supply for their cotton mill. This was called the Middleboro Canal Company. It was not successful.

# CHAPTER IV

#### **TAVERNS**

# JUG TAVERN



UG Tavern (so-called) was a small shack, located in the woods off County Road, on land formerly owned by Len Canedy. Traditionally, this tavern received its name because its keeper, Alden Booth, went to

Taunton with two jugs for his supply of rum. Upon his return, this rum would be sold. When he had no money with which to buy more, he is supposed to have placed wet sponges in the bottom of his jugs. The Taunton store keepers would fill the jugs with rum. When they discovered he could not pay for it, they emptied it out, not realizing a small amount was left. The owner of the tavern would then return home, break the jugs, and catch the rum.

#### THE SAMPSON TAVERN ON COUNTY ROAD

This Sampson Tavern was not so famous as the Sampson Tavern at the foot of Highland Road, therefore little information is available. Like most of the old taverns and inns, this Sampson Tavern was a way station for the stagecoaches that once ran between New Bedford and Boston by way of Taunton. The tavern was kept many years by Charles H. Sampson, a member of the family which included Elias, Eben and Uriah Sampson. These men and their ancestors were pioneers in the hotel business. This old tavern was a gathering place for New Bedford society folks a century ago. They would come out for a dance or a supper. The hospitality of the resort was widely known. It is said that the bar was located beside the office, and that the well worn floor attested to its popularity. The windows were painted so that the curious might not gaze in too freely.

In 1909, A. Davis Ashley of New Bedford bought it and kept it as a country home. The general arrangement as it existed

years ago was retained by Mr. Ashley. In recent years it has been owned by several different people, who have not been interested in it as a landmark. Some of the owners of later years have taken down the back portion.

# THE JEWETT PLACE

The Jewett Place was a Colonial mansion on the Turnpike in the southeastern part of town. This tavern was approached by a circular driveway with large yew and fir trees in front. There were broad verandas in front and on one side. A short distance from the house, and shut off by a hedge, was the lodge. Down the avenue by the shore of that beautiful lake, "Big Quittacus," were the ruins of a bowling alley.



THE JEWETT PLACE

We are told that years ago the younger son of a rich English family by the name of Roberts, because of a family quarrel, came to this country and built a house, afterwards known as the Jewett Place. Roberts had the yew trees sent to him from England, and he set them out. It is said that one night he drove down the avenue to the lake to water his horse, the horse became

#### **TAVERNS**

mired, the carriage tipped over, and the man and horse were both drowned. From information gathered about this family it would appear that after the death of this quarrelsome Roberts, more of his family came from England to live at the mansion.

In the records of the first town meeting held in 1853, an Austin Roberts was present and voted on the name for the town. Miss Mary Cudworth says that the father, Mr. Roberts, was a minister and at one time held Sunday School classes in his home. She also tells that her mother, Abby Nye Cudworth, attended Sunday School there. Later it was a private school for girls for a short while.

In time the Thomas G. Jewetts came to live here. Mr. and Mrs. Jewett had a daughter, Caroline M. Jewett, who married John C. Rhodes of New Bedford on February 1, 1894. Also, a son, Thomas Green Jewett, Jr., was born October 26, 1893, at the Jewett Place.

The following description of a party at the Jewett Place was written by Harry C. Atwood of Taunton, who often visited at the Jewetts: "In my fancy I again see Carpenter's 'Tally-Ho', filled with the girls and boys of my youth, ready to start for the Lakeville Ponds and a supper at the Jewetts on Big Quittacus. We are there in due season, ready for one of their delicious turkey suppers that the Jewetts knew so well how to serve. Mrs. Jewett and her daughter sat at the long table with the rest of us, while Mr. Jewett always sat at a small table in the corner of the room, where he could have plenty of elbow room, and carved the turkey. After the sumptuous repast was finished, some retired to the verandas and sang to the music of guitars. Others strolled down the avenue at the rear of the house, lined with yew trees imported from England."

About 1900 the Jewett Place was moved across the field to Long Point Road.

#### THE SAMPSON TAVERN

The Sampson Tavern which stood on the Old Turnpike, now Bedford Street, was one of the most famous and historical taverns in Lakeville, a part of Middleboro at that time. The first building was erected in the eighteenth century, and was used as a tavern for many years. It was first known as the Forster Tavern and later as the Eagle Tavern. For many years the iron standard which held a golden eagle was on one of the elm trees in front of the tavern. The eagle was for years in the possession of Mrs. Josephine Perry of New Bedford.

The land on which the tavern stood was sold to Uriah Sampson by Thomas Forster, by deed, July 8, 1768. In 1798, thirty years after his father purchased the land, Elias Sampson enlarged and re-opened the tavern.

Elias senior continued as its keeper for 23 years, and then was followed by his brothers, Charles and Uriah Sampson. (This Uriah was Carrie and Abby Pickens' grandfather).



THE SAMPSON TAVERN

### **TAVERNS**

After remaining in the family for more than fifty years, the business was sold to Levi Newcomb, Jr., in 1852. He was followed later by Abner Barrows, and then by Samuel Briggs, and Henry G. Carpenter.

The opening of the Inn in 1798 was an event in the neighborhood. The stagecoaches had started to run between New Bedford and Boston. Friends and neighbors of the Sampsons looked forward to the long winter evenings with games of checkers, and to neighborhood gossip over their pipes and cider. Sampson's was always a sportsmen's tavern. Daniel Webster was an occasional guest at the tavern, and fished many times on Assawompsett Lake.

The first building of the tavern was the central portion, and later it was extended to the south and the rear. In 1835 the largest north part was added. When completed it had two dining rooms, which together would seat one hundred guests. There was a summer and a winter kitchen. Part of the lower floor was used for entertaining large parties and for dancing. The second story had nine sleeping rooms. There were three barns on the premises. One barn on the shore side of the road contained stalls for thirty horses.

In the cool evenings, through the smoke of the corn-cob pipes, the tired hunting dogs stretched out before the fireplace, and the mugs of cider were placed in a row upon the hearth. The number of quail and rabbits, the results of the day's sport, were counted over and over. After the mugs of mulled cider were emptied, the perch and pickerel caught during the day increased greatly in size and somewhat in number. One tremendous fish, the largest in the pond, was hooked but it got away!

In 1807 a road was opened which insured the success of the tavern for more than a half century. It was the Turnpike from New Bedford to Boston. It is believed that Mr. Sampson, with a vision of prosperous days ahead, celebrated the opening of the Turnpike by giving a dinner for his friends and neighbors, and some of the officials and stockholders of the corporation. Among the guests were General Ephraim Ward, Captain Amos Wash-

burn, and Major Levi Peirce. In the early days, in order to obtain a license for a tavern, it must be located near a meeting house. Elder Ebenezer Briggs, pastor of the Pond Meeting House, of course, was there. The tables were loaded with fish caught by the Indians of Betty's Neck, venison from Plymouth woods, quail and partridges, and wild cranberries for sauce. The bread was made from white wheat, used only on festive occasions or when the minister was coming for tea. There was plenty of apple butter. The light of the candles from the sconces on the walls shone down upon the ruddy faces of the farmers, who in their homespun best, with keen appetites, joined with the officials of the road in drinking to the long life of the host and to the success of the Turnpike venture.

What stories the stage drivers told in the barn and in the barroom. A book written by Hezekiah Butterworth, *A Zig Zag Journey*, tells of the story telling on the piazza of the Old Sampson Tavern. A group of guests, calling themselves the "Assawompsett Club," would meet every evening, after supper, on the piazza for story telling. The first guest would tell a story of the South, and the next guest would tell one of the North.

The Indian chapter of this book tells how the Indians would come to the Sampson Tavern to sell their baskets and farm products.

The tavern was closed in 1869. Henry G. Carpenter sold it to Josephine Perry, wife of Eben Perry, of New Bedford, by deed dated June 28, 1870. It was used as a summer home by Eben Perry and his son, Arthur E. Perry, for nearly 40 years.

The City of Taunton obtained title, September 8, 1911, and, of course, we all know the sad fate of the once famous tavern. The buildings were all torn down and removed.

# CHAPTER V

### PEOPLE

# ISAAC SAMPSON



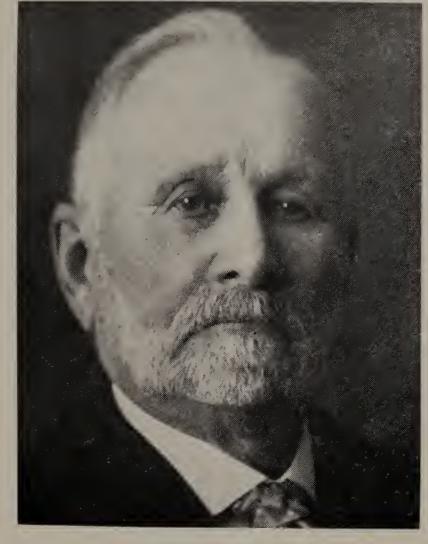
SAAC Sampson, who lived on Main Street, was born July 12, 1826, and died May 16, 1919. He was the son of Nathaniel and Zilpha T. (Shaw) Sampson. He attended Peirce Academy and after completing his aught school in Middleboro for four years. Later he

studies taught school in Middleboro for four years. Later he engaged in the manufacture of whalers' shoes, his product reaching a ready sale in New Bedford.

In 1850 Mr. Sampson went to California where he took up a claim and started farming, afterward working in the mines. He

returned about two and a half years later but went four more times to California engaging in business each trip. At San Leandro he served as postmaster for several years and he also was notary public for Alameda County. His ten years in California were pleasant as well as profitable. He was a member of California Pioneers.

When Lakeville was set apart from Middleboro, in 1853, Mr. Sampson was



elected town clerk and he held that office for many years. He also served as selectman, assessor, auditor and as a member of

the school committee. He always retained an active interest in town matters.

Mr. Sampson noted that during his long life, ninety-three years, the action of the water of Lake Assawompsett had caused several rods of the shore to wash away in sections and thus the area of the lake had been enlarged.

At the time of his death, Mr. Sampson was the oldest resident of Lakeville and thus the holder of the gold-headed cane. He was descended from Abraham Sampson, a brother of Henry Sampson, who came over in the Mayflower, and four generations of his family lived in Lakeville. He married Julia, whose maiden name was Sampson and they had two children: Eugene H. and Julia (Sampson) Willis.

# JOHN H. NELSON

John Hiram Nelson resided on the old road off Main Street. He was born February 7, 1829, and died December 15, 1912. He was the only child of Cyrus A. and Eliza (Pickens) Nelson. He was a great-grandson of Colonel John Nelson, the revolutionary patriot, and a lineal descendant in the sixth generation from Thomas Nelson, who was the first settler on Assawompsett Neck in 1717. Mr. Nelson was left an orphan when eighteen months old by the death of his mother. He married Mary D. Williams of Lakeville, January 1, 1857, and they had five children: a son, Chester W., and four daughters, Hannah K., Fannie, Mary L. and Lucy A.

Mr. Nelson was a pioneer in the establishment of the summer colony at Lake Assawompsett, building the first cottage for Joseph Dean of Taunton in 1857. The shore property of this farm became known as Nelson's Grove.

Mr. Nelson was one of the best known and highly esteemed citizens of the town and from his connection with the summer people had an extensive acquaintance. He was a modest man and never held public office, outside of road surveyor, although often asked to do so. He conducted his farm very successfully.

# CAPTAIN JOHN H. PAUN

Captain John H. Paun was born in New Bedford on August 15, 1831, and died in Lakeville, December 27, 1903. He received his high school education in New Bedford and there learned his cooper's trade. At an early age he shipped from New Bedford

on the whaling ship, "Eagle," for the whaling grounds of the South Pacific where spent forty-nine months. His second voyage was on the "Pantheon," where he served as cooper and fourth mate. When two and a half years out, the ship took fire and was completely destroyed. The crew fortunately escaped and landed on the island of Nukaheva where they stayed for three months, and were then taken off



by an English brig and landed in San Francisco.

Mr. Paun next shipped as first mate on the barque "Massachusetts," which was out from New Bedford for forty months, cruising in the Okhotsk and the South Seas. Subsequently from 1860 to 1864 he was master of the barque, "Anaconda," which was under his charge some forty-five months. His next charge was the barque, "Cicero," which was out for forty-six months, from 1865 to 1869. On this trip he visited the whaling grounds of the Arctic Ocean, the Okhotsk Sea and the South Pacific.

After twenty years of constant voyaging, enduring the bitter cold of the Arctic region, the fierce heat of the tropics, and ex-

posure of the deep, he returned to his home in Lakeville where he spent the rest of his life.

Captain Paun married Sarah C. Coombs. They had four children: S. Ida, John G., Isabelle F. (Paun) Ryder, and Grace I. Sarah Crocker (Coombs) Paun was born in 1835 and died in 1917. She was the daughter of Simeon and Sarah (Hinckley) Coombs. She completed a course of studies at Peirce Academy during the principalship of Prof. Jenks. She taught in the public schools of Lakeville and, at one time, conducted a private school. She was a descendant of Governor Hinckley, Elder Faunce and others of Colonial Days. She ever remained true to the faith of her ancestors.

In politics Mr. Paun was a staunch republican and for ten years he served as selectman and assessor of Lakeville, presiding for eight years during that term as chairman of the selectmen. He was a citizen of strict honesty and integrity and was held in high esteem by the townspeople. His devotion to his family was a marked characteristic.

# JOSEPH DEMARANVILLE

Joseph DeMaranville was born in Lakeville in 1848 and died in 1923. He was the son of Josiah and Louisa (Downing) DeMaranville. He married Chloe A. Horr in January 1881. They had four children: Fred, Alton, Maude and Clarence. They lived on the Turnpike, near Bell School Corner. He was engaged in the teaming business and was very successful in his undertakings. His square, honest treatment won a large number of friends. He was very good in arithmetic and it is said that it was because he attended a girls' school. While a boy in his teens he did chores at the home of the White Sisters, who ran a private school for girls. They took a liking to Joseph and taught him arithmetic.

In town affairs Mr. DeMaranville took an active part. He held the offices of constable and overseer of the poor for many years. He was also, for years, highway surveyor for district number five.

# ANNIE PEIRCE HAYNES KELLY

Annie (Peirce)
Kelly was born in the
Peirce homestead on
Lakeside Avenue in
1862 and died March
27, 1927. Her father
was Charles T. Peirce
and her mother was
Mary V. Sampson, the
daughter of Sylvanus
Sampson.

Mrs. Kelly was a trustee of the Lakeville Public Library. She was very much interested in the rights of women to vote.



# MAJOR PETER HOAR

Major Peter Hoar was a well known and influential man in his day. He served in the Company of Militia commanded by Captain Isaac Wood at the battle of Lexington and was later in several of the expeditions into Rhode Island. He was a major in the Fourth Regiment of Militia of Massachusetts and was afterward promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Major Hoar was one of the selectmen of Middleboro for more than fifty years. He was a representative of the town in the legislature in 1809, 1810 and 1811. He was an active member of the Second Baptist Church which was known as the Pond Meeting-House. Among the provisions of his will he made a generous bequest to this church. Another provision was made whereby a

sermon was to be delivered at his home every Christmas Day, as long as his widow should live. Rev. Daniel Hix of Dartmouth, noted alike for eccentricity and sterling good sense, was selected by Major Hoar to deliver this sermon. He accepted the trust and faithfully performed that duty for nearly a quarter of a century.

### ZEBULON LEONARD CANEDY



Zebulon L. Canedy, former Representative of this district in the General Court of Massachusetts and a highly successful business man, lived at the corner of Highland Road and County Road.

Mr. Canedy was born in Lakeville in 1864. He was the son of William and Jeannette (Allen) Canedy. He received his early education in the Lakeville public schools. He engaged in business at an early

age and soon became very prominent in the lumber business. He also conducted a farm and carried on a teaming business.

In town affairs Mr. Canedy took an active part. He has held the offices of selectman, assessor and overseer of the poor, serving as chairman of the board for several years. He also served the town as superintendent of streets and road commissioner. He was for some time prominent as a contractor in road building. Mr. Canedy died August 5, 1936.

### WALTER SAMPSON

Walter Sampson, who lived on Highland Road, was born December 13, 1862, and died April 23, 1931. He was the son of Uriah and Betsey (Ashley) Sampson. On January 3, 1883, he

married Emma M.
Stevens in Lyndon,
Vermont.

As a boy he worked about the farm on Mullein Hill. He attended the McCully School, with a record for punctual attendance, and later attended Peirce Academy in Middleboro. In 1880, wishing to secure a broader education, he entered the local high school and with intense application to his studies finished the four-year course in two years



During his attendance at high school, Mr. Sampson walked back and forth daily between the school and the farm, a distance of fourteen miles.

Entering Dartmouth College in the fall of 1882, he soon became known in the college as an outstanding student. He was a member of Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity and was one of the editors of the Dartmouth College newspaper. Prior to graduation in 1886 he was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa and also had the distinction of having three degrees conferred upon him by his Alma Mater. These included the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Master of Pedagogy, he being the first graduate to

receive this honorary degree. He entered upon his teaching in the winter of 1885 in New Hampshire. After being graduated from Dartmouth, he was principal of the Academy at Lyndon, Vermont, from 1886 to 1890. In the latter year, he came to Middleboro as principal of the high school, holding that position for thirty-three years.

Mr. Sampson also found time to be active in civic affairs and was much interested in the success of the town. He was interested in fruit culture and his apple and peach orchards on the old farm at Mullein Hill were models and were used for demonstration purposes by State Agricultural officials.

# SIDNEY TUCKER NELSON

Sidney T. Nelson was born August 12, 1845, in the Nelson homestead on the old Turnpike. He died August 26, 1919. He married first, Emma Parkhurst, on June 13, 1872. They had three children: Thomas Sidney Nelson, Maude Nelson, and Clifton W. Nelson.

Emma Nelson, his first wife, died August 1, 1881, and on November 9, 1886, he married Elizabeth Parkhurst, who was a sister of Emma. They had no children.

Mr. Nelson was educated at the Peirce Academy at Middleboro. He served twenty-one years as a member of the school committee and eight years as selectman and assessor and represented the town in the legislature in 1888. He was also a member of the committee for the suppression of crime and was a justice of the peace for fifteen years.

Mr. Nelson was a practical farmer, cultivating the ancestral acres with success. He was considered an authority on agricultural matters. At one time he was a member of the South Bristol Farmer's Club and the meetings were occasionally held at his home.

# CHESTER ASHLEY

Chester Ashley of Montgomery Street is the son of David and Alsada (Peirce) Ashley and was born in Lakeville, October 1863. He attended the McCully School on Highland Road. He filled

the position of substitute teacher for a few years, following which he went to Boston in 1889 to take up shorthand and typing. In 1890 he entered the office of Hollingsworth & Vose in Boston, who were owners of paper manufacturing plants in Walpole and West Groton.

Mr. Ashley married Sophronia A. Alden, December 25, 1893. They had two children, Mildred A. and David.



Mr. Ashley returned to Lakeville in 1901 and was elected to the school committee and served for three years. Between 1904 and 1922 Mr. Ashley practiced general farming. He was elected selectman and assessor in 1922 and held that office for twentynine years. Mr. Ashley has also served as clerk to the board of selectmen and assessors continuously. On March 5, 1951, at the age of eighty-seven, he resigned from public office. He has served with distinction. Mr. Ashley was honored at a testimonial dinner held January 30, 1951, at the Linden Lodge, where more than two hundred guests gathered.

# JOHN G. PAUN

John G. Paun of Main Street is the son of Captain John H. Paun and Sarah C. Paun. Captain Paun was a Master Mariner, captain of whalers sailing out of New Bedford. When away on



one of his whaling voyages, he left his family in Barnstable, where John G. Paun was born on June 13, 1870. The family moved back to Lakeville in 1872, residing at the Paun homestead.

Mr. Paun attended the Upper Four Corners School. From there he attended school in Middleboro, then Eaton's private school, where he studied for four years, taking a d v a n c e d courses in higher

mathematics and graduating as a surveyor in 1890. He did surveying for the town and worked a hundred acre farm. He built his present home and was married therein, August 1899, to Louisa Thomas. They have one daughter, Edith (Paun) MacNeill.

Mr. Paun was appointed moderator and auditor in 1902, continuing that service until 1923, when he was elected town clerk, treasurer, tax collector and a member of the board of welfare. He has continued as such, excepting the duties of the board of welfare, which were taken over by the selectmen in 1947.

Mr. Paun was honored at a testimonial dinner held January 30, 1951, at the Linden Lodge, where more than two hundred guests gathered.

# CAPTAIN ANDREW J. SHOCKLEY

Captain Andrew J. Shockley of Main Street spent fifteen years at sea. He was a most interesting story-teller and his narratives of the years spent at sea were thrilling. His whaling voyages took him to many waters but he withstood the hardships and dangers of early shipping and returned to his native town. He was born in Lakeville, June 12, 1835, and he died in 1911. His father was Joseph Shockley. There were fifteen children in the family, seven of whom were boys. Residing near the largest lake in the state, Assawompsett, they spent much time on or around this lake. Perhaps as a natural sequence one after another, with the exception of one who was blind, the boys went to sea. For thirty-seven years members of the Shockley family of this town sailed the seas.

A peculiar feature of their seafaring life is the fact that all the boys shipped on whaling vessels. In fifteen years of life on the sea, Captain Shockley had only one mishap. He was nearly drowned in the Indian Ocean.

A short time before his fifteenth birthday, a desire to see the world possessed young Andrew Shockley and going to New Bedford he signed up with the ship "William Hamilton," on which his brother, Humphrey Shockley, was master. This was in 1850. Later young Shockley shipped on the "Rebecca Simms," which was gone forty-two months, returning in 1857 with a good load of oil. For a time after this he ran a packet boat carrying sugar from the Sandwich Islands to San Francisco. This was followed by another whaling trip to the Arctic, the return route being by way of Japan. From this trip in 1866 he landed at San Francisco and came back overland to his native town. The remainder of his life was spent on his model seventy acre farm.

Captain Shockley was married July 5, 1857, to Phebe J. Ashley of Lakeville and two children were born to them: Frederick A. Shockley and Ida M. (Shockley) Shaw.

### ELBRIDGE CUSHMAN

Elbridge Cushman of Main Street, a native of Lakeville, was born in 1838 and died on September 8, 1899. He was educated in the public schools and fitted for college at Peirce Academy.



He was a teacher in many Plymouth County schools and in Worcester in his younger days.

He married Elizabeth Shurtleff and they had three daughters: Elizabeth, Susie and Ruth (Cushman) Holmes.

Later he became known as a very progressive farmer. He was for a time president of the Plymouth County Agricultural Society and lectured in every part of the state on agriculture

and in the interest of the grangers. He was appointed to the State Board of Agriculture by Governor Russell and served three terms with distinction.

Mr. Cushman held various town offices, some of which were as follows: selectman, a member of the school committee and of the committee to settle with town officers. He had twice been nominated by the Democrats for Secretary of State. He had lectured on the political platform quite extensively. He was at first a Republican but left the party because of the high tariff ideas during Blaine's canvass.

Mr. Cushman was a prominent member of the Central Baptist Church and was well known in both Lakeville and Middleboro.

# ALTON R. ROGERS

Alton R. Rogers was born in Lakeville, February 4, 1868, the son of Hiram and Mary Rogers. He lived in Lakeville until 1939 and then moved to Middleboro where he served on the

police force for twenty-three years. He was then obliged to retire because of ill health.

He packed a lot of experience into his life, being a farmer, a farm manager, a shoeworker, a stone mason, a builder of a pipe line and collector of antiques. As a stone mason Mr. Rogers helped build many of the foundations of the mill houses in East Taunton. As a shoeworker, in his younger days,



he was employed at the John Aldrich Shoe Factory in North Lakeville. He was foreman of the construction of the pipe line from Elder's Pond to Taunton. At one time he was boss farmer at the Morgan Rotch estate which is now the summer home of the Arthur G. Rotch family.

Mr. Rogers served in town offices in addition to his duties as policeman of Middleboro, being a member of the board of health and welfare and also a cemetery commissioner for Lakeville. He was a constable in this town for some thirty-nine years.

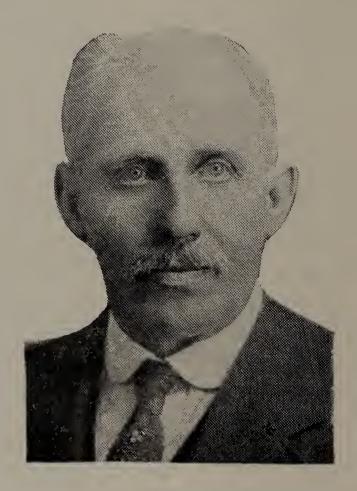
Alton R. Rogers married Nellie Bisbee and they had three children: Lillie (Rogers) Quindley, Edith (Rogers) Green and Charles H. Mr. Rogers died August 17, 1952.

# FREDERICK A. SHOCKLEY

Frederick A. Shockley was born July 6, 1861, in the homestead on Main Street and lived the greater part of his life there. He was the son of Andrew J. and Phebe J. (Ashley) Shockley. In

February, 1882, he married Emma Pearce. They had two daughters, Carrie (Shockley) Elliott and Gladys (Shockley) Thatcher.

During early manhood he lived with his uncle, A. Davis Ashley, in New Bedford, returning later to Lakeville where he engaged extensively in the carriage business. The selling of automobiles was added, as this mode of transportation superseded the horse and buggy.



On March 4, 1895, he was elected to the office of selectman and assessor, serving continuously for forty-four years. In 1916 he was appointed a deputy sheriff of Plymouth County and held that office until his death. The increasing duties of the county appointment prompted his resignation from town duties on March 10, 1939.

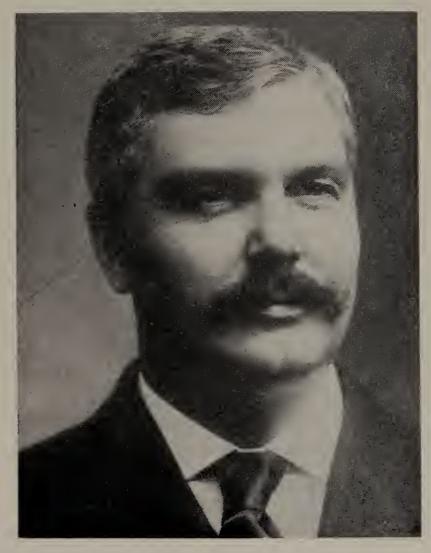
Many of his spare moments were spent in the saddle, as he was always a lover of horses.

With the passing of Mr. Shockley in January, 1942, Lakeville lost one of its best known and most highly respected citizens.

# GEORGE WARD STETSON

George Ward Stetson was a native of Lakeville, the son of Sprague S. and Thalia (Weston) Stetson, and was born February 27, 1866. He married Miss Myra Cushing, June 26, 1896.

He died June 1, 1926, and is buried in the Nemasket Hill Cemetery in Middleboro. The names of their children were Priscilla (Stetson) Alger, Thalia (Stetson) Kennedy, George Ward, Ir., and Mary C. (Stetson) Wood. He came of good Colonial stock, being descended on his father's side from the Ward family, while his mother was a granddaughter of Joshua Eddy. He attended the Upper Four Corners School



in Lakeville, was graduated from Middleboro High School in 1882 and from Dartmouth College in 1886, with the degree of A.B., being a member of Phi Beta Kappa and of Alpha Delta Phi. He was an enthusiastic Dartmouth man, intensely loyal to his Alma Mater.

After spending a year at his father's farm in Lakeville, he resolved to study law and began again as a student in 1888. He was in the office of his uncle, Thomas Weston, a leading attorney in Boston, and later historian of Middleboro. Mr. Stetson also took courses at Boston University Law School, from which he was graduated in 1890 with the degree of L.L.B., being admitted the

same year to the Suffolk bar. He continued in his uncle's office, with an evening office in Middleboro, until 1897. Upon the death of Everett Robinson, Mr. Stetson succeeded to much of his business and with increasing practice, he gave up the Boston office. For approximately three years he held the position of special justice of the Fourth District Court.

In 1900, he was appointed referee in bankruptcy; his district originally was comprised of Plymouth and Barnstable Counties, but later included Bristol, Dukes and Nantucket Counties. The duties of this office gave him a wide acquaintance with the bar of Southeastern Massachusetts. He still carried on his ever increasing law practice. For a time he was associated with Albert H. Washburn and later formed a partnership with Fletcher Clark, Jr. under the firm name of Stetson & Clark. He was one of the original board of trustees of the estate of Thomas S. Peirce, and also a trustee of the Middleboro Savings Bank—for years its clerk. He served as director in the Middleboro Trust Company.

A member of the Central Baptist Church, he served on the prudential committee and as treasurer. Interested in the YMCA, he was on its board of management and was its president and treasurer. Despite the exacting duties of his profession and the demands upon his time and strength in the office he filled, Mr. Stetson had so strong a sense of civic duty that he readily accepted many lesser places of trust in which he was of particular assistance to his fellow townsmen. He was a member of various committees of the town, was chairman of the school committee and president of the Old Middleboro Historical Association.

# NATHANIEL G. STAPLES

Nathaniel Gilbert Staples, who lived on Main Street, was born in 1851 and died in 1930. He was the youngest son of Harrison and Hannah Purrington (Morton) Staples. He resided in Lakeville all of his life. He survived his sister, Mrs. Julia E. Bassett, by only eleven days. He attended the Lakeville public schools and Peirce Academy. As a young man he was a member of Carter's Band of Middleboro. He served for several years as selectman and assessor of the town and for many years was moderator at the annual town meetings. He was justice of the peace for seven years. He served one term as State Representative from Lakeville in 1898.

He was a carpenter by trade and for a number of years was a bridge and depot builder. He was foreman of the road building for the State Highway Commission.

He married Julia E. Coombs (Hathaway) and they had a daughter, Hannah M. (Staples) Reed.

# FRANK B. WILLIAMS

Frank B. Williams, who lived on Myricks Street, was born in 1868 and died in December, 1939. He was the son of John and Susan E. (Ashley) Williams. He was connected with the family of former Mayor Charles S. Ashley of New Bedford. His grandfather and Mayor Ashley's father were first cousins.

Mr. Williams held the offices of selectman and assessor in this town for twenty-seven years. He was well known throughout this section and was highly respected and honored by all who knew him.

A grocery store in the Precinct district was operated by Mr. Williams for many years. This store had an order route through other parts of the town.

Mr. Williams and Miss Bethia Rounds were married December 6, 1919, and they had a daughter, Edith (Williams) Goodwin.

# JAMES P. PEIRCE

James P. Peirce of Lakeville was born September 24, 1835, and died in 1914. Mr. Peirce was educated in the public schools in Middleboro and after completing his school course became a farmer and a wood and lumber dealer. He was a strong member of the republican party and was a prohibitionist. He had served in the legislature. He had held the offices of selectman and assessor and overseer of the poor in his native town at different times.

# JOHN CUDWORTH

John Cudworth was born in 1839 and died in 1921. He married Sarah Rounseville and they had twelve children: Horace, Jesse, Nellie (Cudworth) Parker, Philena (Cudworth) Tallman, Lawrence, Carrie (Cudworth) Dunbar, Emma (Cudworth) Brown, Abbie (Cudworth) Atwood, Fannie (Cudworth) Randall, Myron, Ella (Cudworth) Lawrence, and Arthur. He was well known in town as he had been fish warden from 1869 to 1880 and was constable from 1865 to 1880.

# ORRIN E. HASKINS

Orrin E. Haskins, who lived on Precinct Street, was born in 1845 and was the son of Levi and Mary (Sampson) Haskins. He was town clerk of Lakeville for many years and had also held other town offices. He married Emma White, daughter of Robert White of County Road. Mr. Haskins was stricken with a shock while working in the fields of his estate and died in 1922. He was an outstanding citizen.

# JULIA STAPLES BASSETT

Julia Staples Bassett lived in the Captain Nathaniel Staples homestead on Main Street. She was born January 14, 1846, the only daughter of Harrison and Hannah P. (Morton) Staples. She had an excellent education, having attended Lakeville schools, Peirce Academy, and Wolfeboro Institute, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. Many of the older residents of Lakeville recall her outstanding ability as a reader.

Mrs. Bassett took an active interest in town affairs, serving as trustee of the Lakeville Public Library from 1916 to 1930 and as an officer and worker in the Sewing Circle. For many years she was actively connected with the Nemasket Grange of Middleboro, ably performing the duties of chaplain for thirty years. She left a record of faithful and conscientious service in the Grange, which has seldom been equalled.

She married Charles H. Bassett of Sandwich and they had four children: Ralph M., Nathaniel S., Helen P., and Marcus N. Mrs. Bassett died April 5, 1930.

# CAPTAIN JOB PEIRCE AND HIS FAMILY

On Main Street (near Stetson Street) in that part of Middle-boro which is now Lakeville lived a man whose existence and generosity vitally affected citizens of both towns. His family name is as familiar today as it was almost two centuries ago when he was still alive. He was generous and foresighted, living in frugal simplicity that others might benefit from his industry. In the year 1767 this man, Captain Job Peirce, bought the house which stood near the site of the house once owned by Elbridge Cushman and Frank H. Conklin, and now the property of N. Merrill Sampson. Here he cultivated a farm of two hundred acres, where the product of corn alone was, one year, a little over nine hundred bushels.

The farmhouse was a modest one, even after the additions made by the captain. The exact date of its earliest construction

is not known, but, at the time of its demolition in 1870, it had stood for a century and a half.

When Captain Peirce and his wife moved onto the farm, they already had three children: a son and two daughters. Later the older daughter became the wife of Major Peter Hoar. Other sons were born who in time brought more fame and fortune into the family. Their birthdates, names and achievements follow: December 12, 1767, Job Peirce, Jr., a remarkably successful merchant and ship-builder; October 1, 1773, Levi Peirce, well-known business man, delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1820, postmaster for thirty-two years, influential member of the Pond Meeting - House, and benefactor of the Central Baptist Church in Middleboro; May 26, 1775, Ebenezer Peirce, a man of unusual business capacity, and March 25, 1788, Peter H. Peirce, storekeeper, manufacturer and real estate owner, "whose influence in circles civil and military, mercantile and political was unequaled."

According to a grandson, General Ebenezer W. Peirce, Captain Job was the founder and donor of Peirce Academy and his son, Levi, the distributor of his father's generous gift.

The captain and his wife lived in their modest home to the end of their days and there they died and were carried to their places of burial in the cemetery crowning a hill-top behind the house. Here, too, are the resting places of Major Peter Hoar and General Ephraim Ward.

# CHAPTER VI

### **INDUSTRIES**

# THE STEAMER "ASSAWAMPSETT"

HE steamer "Assawampsett" was built in the year 1879 by John Baylies LeBaron. The "Assawampsett" was a sixty-foot boat and could carry one hundred and fifty passengers. The voyage on the river was one of peril and often the skipper and his "settin pole" were required to push the craft off the rocks and shoals, but once in the pond it was plain sailing. The smokestack was hinged to permit its being

lowered when passing under bridges.



The Steamer "Assawampsett"

Mr. LeBaron, a moulder by trade, built the boiler for the boat. Old-timers recall a controversy which arose when Mr. LeBaron was informed he would be required to have a fireman's license. He protested strongly that he had built the boat and ought to know how to run it. A compromise was reached whereby he received a special license to navigate the "Assawampsett" up the

Nemasket River to the ponds. When the City of Taunton placed the gates across the mouth of the river, the "Assawampsett" went out of business.

In 1876, three years before the days of the steamer "Assawampsett," Mr. LeBaron had built the first steamboat for navigating the Nemasket River to the ponds. It was named "The Pioneer" and was a forty-foot, coal burning, side wheeler which would accommodate forty passengers.

A third steamboat, built by William Young for the Nemasket River, was a forty-foot stern wheeler. After two trips up the river, it was taken into Long Pond and used for excursion trips.

Another ferry, operated on Long Pond in 1880, was used for the sole purpose of carrying men from the mainland to Lewis Island where cranberries were cultivated.



# Assawampsett Lake, Lakeville, Mass.

SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO

SUNDAY SCHOOL, LODGE, & FAMILY PICNICS AND CLAMBAKES.

A PLEASANT RESORT FOR CAMPING AND FISHING PARTIES.

The Grove is furnished with Seats and Tables, and accommodations for Cooking and Camping, Swings and Croquet. Good Shore for Fishing and Bathing.

The Grove is 3 miles from Middleboro' and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Lakeville stations on the O. C. R. Steamer Pioneer stops on each trip. Can also be easily reached by carriage.

# Regular Trips, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays,

Returning to connect with trains. Ice furnished. Sail and Row Boats to Let. Terms Reasonable. Good order required.

# J. H. NELSON, Box 179, Middleboro', Mass.

The above industry explains itself. It is a reproduction of a card prepared by the late John Hiram Nelson, when the lake country was a popular resort for picnic parties and excursions. There were two groves on the western shore of Assawompsett at that time, Nelson's or Stony Point and Sampson's or Green Point. "The Pioneer" stopped at both places and a day at the lakes was enjoyed by many in those days.

### **INDUSTRIES**

# THE TACK FACTORY

Back in 1700 Major Thomas Leonard operated a forge at the site of the Tack Factory located on Barny Brook in North Lakeville. This forge was used for about eighty years. Later a sawmill was in operation at the same place. Then, sometime before 1868, it became a tack factory built by Albert Mason of Bridgewater. It was from this enterprise that the neighborhood obtained its name and has since been known as the Tack Factory. Under the management of Mr. Mason this factory was not successful and soon was abandoned.



The Tack Factory

Sometime later, George Osborne purchased and operated this industry, doing a flourishing business. It was this same Mr. Osborne who made the pattern for the tacks and had it cast at the LeBaron Foundry in Middleboro, but he neglected to have it patented and it was stolen. At the death of George Osborne in 1878 his son, Willard, succeeded him. Willard died in 1919 and about 1920 the Tack Factory burned.

### THE OLD TACK FACTORY

# May 1866

It stands here black with smoke and time.

The creeping rust around.
While striking on the soft May air
Comes forth its busy sound.

The stanch machines rattle away,
Working like things of life,
Seeming only intent to say
Who first shall win the strife.

Who first shall pile the cask on high With nails all silver bright, Repeating each the same refrain, "Our work is our delight".

The rafters bare stretch overhead,
Looking so brown and old
They say as plain as words can speak,
We could a tale unfold.

A fascination seems to lurk
Within its old black walls,
For oft its grim and shadowy form
The strolling footstep calls.

And children pause as they from school

Go when their tasks are o'er And curious eyes and glances bright Shine through the magic door.

Near by the brook sings babbling on, Its spring, robed banks amid Green gemmed with dandelions gold, And violets blue half hid.

The old mill pond a picture fair
In sunshine or in calm
Having for all who seek therefor
A lesson and a charm.

In each soft sunny summer morn
A mirror clear it lies,
Reflecting in its liquid calm
A dream of paradise.

And o'er its surface bends serene
The blue sky from above,
Directing thoughts to heavenly
things
And to the God of love.

And Pisgah, rears its sheltering dome,Not Nebo's mount of old,A lesser height of modern dayWhose fame is yet untold.

Later, pond lilies pure and fair, With fragrant petals white, Will on its bosom glow like stars In the sky of a cloudless night.

Seven gilead trees the portal keep:
Is balm in gilead? Then so long
The healing stream shall flow
For lost and erring men.

And when King Frost resumes his sway,
As changing seasons roll
And binds its waves in fetters strong
Brought from the icy pole.

Of then, how merry the girls and boys

Will o'er its surface glide, Imbibing draughts of you and health As they skate and shout and slide.

The hair is gray and bowed the form
Beneath the weight of time,
Who forty years ago or more
Wrought here in manhood's prime.

And since through all the changing years

He labored with good will

With honest heart and honest hands,

His duties to fulfill.

#### **INDUSTRIES**

Of future years that will come and go,

Not one can we forecast:
But when forty more have rolled
away
To join the mighty past.

Where then, will be the mill and stream

Where pond and lily sweet?
And where O where will wander then
All these busy feet?

Matter may change and time succeed, But ever firm will stand, The word of God and a home for all Who choose, in the better land.

- E. J. O.

# THE BLACKSMITH SHOPS

The old blacksmith shops of yester-years have vanished long ago. Many of us as children can remember the ancient anvil, the bellows and the heat from the forge. The oxen as well as the horses were driven to the blacksmith shop to be shod. The horse-shoeing business began to decline and by 1925 it had nearly disappeared, because the "horseless carriage" was here to stay. But in recent years, horse-back riding, as a sport, has made a renewed demand for blacksmiths.

One of the old blacksmith shops, in use for many years, stood just beyond the Sampson Tavern, at the corner of Highland Road and the Turnpike. It was operated by Calvin Southworth.

Long ago blacksmith shops were operated by Levi Chase, on Hunt Road, which is now Pickens Street; by Alvanus Southworth, at the corner of Rhode Island Road and the Turnpike; by William Strobridge, in the Strobridge neighborhood; by Lou (Lewis) Parris on Sullivan Road, now Kingman Street; by Job. Peirce on Peirce Avenue, and by a Mr. Richmond at North Lakeville for about a year. Records show that Job Peirce was an apprentice to Mr. Strobridge.

Will Hoard operated the last shop in Lakeville, and the one which can be recalled by some of the older residents. It was situated at the corner of Precinct and Pickens Streets.

# SHOE MAKING IN THE OLDEN DAYS

In the olden days every family was on its own as far as the making of shoes was concerned. A shoemaker would travel from house-to-house making shoes for each member of the family. It was the custom in early winter for each family, if it did not raise cattle and tan its own leather, to purchase a calf skin, a side of upper leather, and a side of sole leather to have the stock on hand.

Calvin Dunham is listed as one of the skilled shoemakers who traveled from house-to-house making regular visits. He would bring his work bench and tools with him. The family for whom he was working would have the shoe thread on hand, from some which had been spun during the year. Then, seated by the open fire in the kitchen, Mr. Dunham would make new shoes for each member of the family and also repair their old shoes.



An old cobbler's bench with the seat at the right. The knives, punches, and awls can be seen in the slots at the back and, at the front, the trays where the wooden pegs were kept. The shoes were made on wood n lasts of various sizes and shapes.

#### **INDUSTRIES**

Another traveling shoeworker was Hannah Reed, who was noted for her energy and great strength. It is related that she would walk to Boston one day and return the next day, bringing leather and supplies to be used for shoes. She made good substantial shoes that fitted the feet well.

Later, little shops were built. Nearly every home had a cobbler's shop, or a room in the house where shoes were made. Many of these buildings are still in existence, not as cobblers' shops, but as work shops, or tool houses.

One of the old shoe shops, that is still standing, was owned by Agustus Andrews about 1885. It is located on Taunton Street in North Lakeville, now owned and used as a tool shed by Arthur Coffin. Another shop, which is still being used today, is the one on the old Tobey place on the Turnpike. It is an antique shop, owned and operated by Mrs. Alton Cudworth.

Years ago one of these stood on the Charles Peirce farm on Lakeside Avenue. The Tom Spooner place and the Nellie Horr place on Bedford Street, which was the Turnpike years ago, each had family shoe shops.

At Precinct the Dean brothers operated a shoe factory. It is said that they did an extensive business employing several hands.

Some of the family shops that can be remembered were at Austin Haskins', at the corner of the Turnpike and Rhode Island Road; at Herbert Brown's father's, at the corner of Precinct and Pickens Streets; at Martin Caswell's, on Precinct Street, and at Paul Jones', who was Fanny McDonald Kelly's grandfather, on Rhode Island Road.

Remember your grandfather telling of his grandfather sitting at the old cobbler's bench making shoes for the entire family? Some of these benches are still in existence today, as antiques, rather than necessities.

John R. Aldrich of North Lakeville, about 1880, built a shoe factory and carried on an extensive shoe business. The factory was located on what is now the Godfrey Robinson farm, on Taunton Street. When it opened there were six workmen,

and when it closed in 1900 there were thirty-five employed, making three hundred pairs of shoes a day. Later the factory was known as the "Aldrich and Haskins Shoe Shop". The building, after being closed for a while, was removed and made into a dwelling house. The machinery was sold and moved to New Jersey.



This is the John Aldrich Shoe Factory at North Lakeville taken years ago. Mrs. Godfrey Robinson, a daughter of Mr. Aldrich, is in the doorway. Others in the picture are John Aldrich, William Aldrich, Charles Wood, Abiatha Reed, Bradford Leonard, Henry Pratt, Daniel Aldrich. Edward Copeland, Charles Ashley, Augustus Andrews, Herbert Haskins and George Aldrich.

# HOME-MADE SOAP

The making or using of soft soap would not appeal to us today, though it was quite a necessary industry in years gone by. All surplus fat was carefully stored, as were the wood ashes from the fireplace, till enough of both had been secured. The ashes were placed in barrels and water added which made the lye. This lye was boiled with the grease in proper proportions in huge kettles over the fire. It took twenty-four pounds of grease and six bushels of ashes to make one barrel of soft soap. This was used for household purposes. A toilet soap was sometimes made with the bayberry tallow.

### **INDUSTRIES**

# IRON ORE

In the latter part of the eighteenth century, iron ore of superior quality was found in large quantities in Assawompsett Lake, and was a source of much income. For a long time, as much as five hundred tons were taken yearly, before the supply was exhausted. An able-bodied man could secure two tons in a day.

Iron was also abundant in Long Pond, or Apponequett as the Indians called it. This ore was taken and melted at the blast furnace in East Freetown. The water in Long Pond was too deep to gather the ore, and the undertaking was more or less dangerous, several persons having lost their lives while engaged in this work. The ore was raised from the bottom of the pond by long tongs, placed in rough scows, and towed ashore. It was then taken to the blast furnaces where it was converted into andirons, kettles, spiders, and other articles known as hollowware for domestic use. Some pieces of this hollow-ware, which have been used for generations, are still preserved as relics. This iron also made fine cannon and ball during the Revolutionary War. In some cases, the workmen in the blast furnaces received part of their wages in the hollow-ware manufactured there. They were often obliged to turn peddler in order to convert their wages into cash.

Some of the iron was taken from the blast furnaces to the forges about town, where it was made into bars of the desired thickness and length. These pieces were then taken to the various slitting mills, cut up and rolled into nail rods. These rods were bound into bundles of fifty and the farmers took them to their shops to be hammered into hand-wrought iron nails. There was one of these forges by the road, between the old Bowen place and the farm occupied by Dr. Swan, which is now (1952) L. G. Wilkie's farm. Another in North Lakeville, used for 80 years, stood on the site of the Tack Factory. Major Thomas Leonard, of Taunton, was the promoter of that enterprise.

One of the small nail mills stood on the right of the highway, not far from the Assawompsett School.

### STRAW HATS

The straw business, which was so extensively and successfully conducted in Middleboro in the nineteenth century, had its origin in that part of the town that has since become Lakeville. To Ebenezer Briggs, Jr., who resided upon the southerly shore of the great Assawompsett Pond in what was then West Middleboro, is due the honor of having introduced this business. Mr. Briggs commenced the bonnet business in or near the year 1828 and continued the manufacture of hats in Lakeville about seven years. In 1835, Mr. Briggs moved his straw hat business to the Four Corners and carried on this business there for about nine years.

In 1844, Andrew and James Pickens, twin brothers, and William A. King purchased the straw works from Ebenezer Briggs.

It is said that the straw works at one time were conducted in a building which stood on the corner of the old Turnpike (now Bedford Street) and Long Point Road. Part of that building was moved about one-quarter of a mile north on the Turnpike and made into a dwelling house. The latter was called the Nellie Horr place.

At one time the sewing of the straw braid into women's hats was done by the housewives in their own homes. A man would make regular trips in a carriage, distributing the braid and collecting the hats when completed. The ladies would make the hats on plaster-of-paris forms of various sizes and shapes.

The straw braid which was first used was all made in this country but later was imported. This change took away the occupation of many women, who had braided it by hand. In the early years of this enterprise all the sewing was done by hand, but as years went by machines were used more and more. In time the business outgrew its first few rooms and buildings were erected on Courtland Street in Middleboro. The straw factory continued to be very successful until 1895, when the owner, Arthur R. Alden, died and the business was not re-established. Thus passed a once-thriving industry, which had its beginning in Lakeville.

#### **INDUSTRIES**

### CANDLE MAKING BY OUR GRANDMOTHERS

The making of candles is an industry worthy of mention, for it was a necessity in the early days. The bayberry candle was a luxury and used only on special occasions. As she sat by the fire-place the industrious mother was busily engaged looping six or eight strings of candle wicking, in lengths of about ten inches, over short wooden rods. She did this on fifty or more rods, according to the number of candles she was making.

For wicking she used commercial cotton wick, which was to be found in all country stores, or maybe hemp or coarse linen of her own manufacture. When the wicks were all placed on the rods, she carefully stiffened them with wax or tallow, that they might dip more easily. The next day two large kettles, half-filled with water, were brought in and placed over the fire, and the tallow, which had been carefully saved for the purpose, was put in them. When the tallow boiled, the kettles were removed from the hearth and the rods, with the candle wicks attached, were dipped in turn into the hot tallow. This process was repeated until the candles were the desired size. Later, itinerant candle-makers relieved the housewife of this portion of her many household duties.

# CIDER MILLS

Many of the old-timers had cider presses at their own houses and made their own cider. One of the old cider mills was located on Lang Street at the old Reed place.

Len Canedy had a cider mill and made cider which he sold. He would also press cider for a small fee for the farmers, if they would gather their own apples and bring them to his mill. Frank Orrall, who operates a store in North Lakeville on the Taunton Road, has the last remaining cider press existing in town today, although he discontinued its use a few years ago.

### FLAX AND HEMP

Thread was spun at home from hemp and flax raised on the farm. Every spring our forefathers planted hemp and flax as regularly as corn and beans. They were cut and bound in the early summer, cured, and prepared for use.

Miss Hannah K. Nelson has told that, when as a child she questioned the unusual looking bundles that were stored on a high scaffold in the barn, her father told her they were bundles of flax raised on the farm of one of her ancestors. When cut and bundled, the flax was placed under the water in Bates Brook, which ran through the farm, and left there for some time. Then it was aired and dried in the hot sun. This was done to render brittle the stiff outer fibre which covered the soft linen threads inside. After passing through twenty manipulations, the flax was at last ready for spinning on the small wheels.

Today one treasures great-grandmother's spinning wheel as an ornament, but to her it was a practical necessity, as many a fine piece of table and bed linen of her own weaving will testify.

# **BRICK-YARDS**

At an earlier period, a brick-yard did a good business on a lot between Lakeville station and the Town House. This brick-yard was owned and operated by a Mr. Tyler, for whom Tyler Hill was named. Pieces of brick were found, as recently as 1920, in that section.

It is said that a brick-yard, owned and operated by a Harlow, was in operation in North Lakeville. But there is little information concerning it.

#### **INDUSTRIES**

### **SAWMILLS**

The sawing of box-boards and shingles was carried on quite extensively many years ago.

A shingle mill was owned and operated by Sumner Hinds on Highland Road which was known in years gone by as Shingle Hill Road.

Churchill T. Westgate, who lived on the Old Turnpike, had a box-board mill on Indian Shore Road on Tamett Brook for many years.

In 1913, William S. Eaton of Boston purchased a large tract of land on Long Point Road through to Lake Assawompsett, with Little and Big Pocksha on the east and Cranberry Pond on the west. He located a sawmill in back of Negro Allen's swamp.

From time to time portable sawmills have been set up in various places all over the town. Today a few small sawmills are left in town but they are only operated a short time each year.

Levi Peirce had a sawmill on Holloway Brook in South Lakeville. After 1800 it ceased to exist.

### **TANNERIES**

Two successful tanneries were in operation in Lakeville in the earlier days. One, owned and operated by General Ephraim Ward, was on the road leading from Staples Corner to the Ward place. Another was at the right of the highway on the Washburn Farm, in 1911 known as the King Philip Tavern property.

# SHEEP RAISING

Raising sheep was an important industry of long ago. Spinning wheels were in every home. No girl was considered marriageable until she had spun and woven with her own hands all her household woolen and linen; hence the name "spinster" often applied to unmarried women.

Many a grandmother wove a whole blanket at her loom from wool of her own spinning and sheared from sheep raised on the farm. Among prized heirlooms are woolen bed coverlets woven on looms in the quaint Colonial patterns of the early days.

One of the sheep farms of long ago was on Southworth Street at the Otis Southworth farm. It is believed that his father before him also raised sheep.

The swingled tow sheared from the sheep in the spring on this farm was washed in the brook that crosses Southworth Street, known now as Poquoy Brook, but at that time it was called Swingled Tow Brook.

The last sheep raising carried on to any extent in town was on Highland Road on the farm of Len Canedy.

## CHAPTER VII

# POST OFFICE SHORT STORIES

AIL was first carried by stagecoach between Boston and New Bedford, stopping at the taverns along the way. Sampson's Tavern was the stop in Lakeville (when Lakeville was included in Middleboro). The first post office was established about 1804, at the Washburn house, near the site of the Town House. This was a distributing office as the mail was left there to be sent to the adjacent towns by horse-back.

James Washburn, the first postmaster, appointed by President Adams in 1804 resigned in favor of Major Levi Peirce in 1811.

In 1824, an office was re-established under the name of *The Assawompsett Post Office*. Captain Daniel Smith, its first postmaster, was succeeded by Elias Sampson, Jr. In 1831, the name was changed to the *West Middleboro Post Office*. This office was discontinued about the year 1846 for some time and when reestablished it was located near the Lakeville Depot. The office of postmaster was held for many years by Cephas Haskins. Later his two daughters, Mary and Lillian, were in charge. In 1879, the post office at Lakeville station was burned, but was rebuilt and continued to be located in the Haskins' neighborhood until the mail came through the Middleboro Office.

In October, 1899, the town first enjoyed the benefits of Rural Free Delivery, secured through the efforts of O. K. Gerrish. This town was the second in the State and the third in the United States to be so favored. Arthur Johnson was the first R.F.D. carrier in Lakeville making daily deliveries. Mr. Johnson lived on Rhode Island Road between the Haskins Cemetery and the Haskins School.

## THE BETSEY AND WILLIAM ELMS

"Betsey and William" are Lakeville's historical elms, located at Camp Joe Hooker, on Staples Shore Road. James Raymond Simmons in his book, "Historical Trees of Massachusetts," describes them as being wine-glass elms.

The larger of the two has a height of sixty feet, a spread of sixty-five feet, and a circumference of eight and a half feet. The smaller tree is sixty feet high, has a fifty foot spread and is seven feet in circumference.



"Betsey and William" Trees on former Camp Joe Hooker Grounds, Main Street

The story connected with the naming of the trees is very interesting. They were planted in 1780 by the owner of the farm, at that time Nathaniel Smith. Some years later, after the trees had grown so that they towered above all the other trees, the farm adjoining changed owners. This was the farm to the north. The new owners were Betsey and William Harlow. Mrs. Harlow had a brother, Peter Vaughan, who lived on what is now Vaughan Street in the Old Vaughan Homestead. Mr. Vaughan was very fond of his sister and after she moved away from the homestead, he grew very lonesome. He would console himself by looking

toward his sister's new home. He could see the elms above all the trees in the woods. These trees seemed the nearest he could get to his sister so, when he was looking that way, he would remark, "There Are Betsey and William." These names are still applied to the two venerable trees which are still living and are noticed by all passing by. They are considered historic in that they stand in the middle of what was once a training field, where the soldiers of this community were mustered for service in the Civil War. The men who enlisted from Lakeville served their country with honor and distinction. The towering elms, ever a fitting memorial to the brave, stand here as if wrapt in silent reflection, over-looking the place where some of the boys in blue prepared themselves for the great crisis.

"William and Betsey" stand at Camp Joe Hooker as silent reminders of the patriotism and military activity which clustered around the old muster grounds in the days of the sixties.

## KING PHILIP'S LOOKOUT

On the southwestern shore of Lake Assawompsett, on what was known as Shockley Hill, may be seen the conical-shaped hill called King Philip's Lookout. Some say that it was built by the Indians and some say that it is a natural formation.

King Philip's domain was included in this section and was under the rule of the subchief, Pamantaquash, or as he was known to the whites, the Pond Sachem. He ruled all the neighboring tribes and his seat was at King Philip's Lookout.

It is known that during the war with the Indians, this hill was used also as a signaling station by means of fires at night.

It was from this same hill that the renegade Indian saw King Philip's braves place the body of the murdered Sassamon under the ice in Lake Assawompsett.

## THE ALEWIFE

The alewife, or herring as it is commonly known, is the little fish with a big story. The alewife takes its name from the Indian word "aloof," meaning a fish.

In 1853, when Lakeville was separated from Middleboro, it was agreed that the Town of Lakeville should have rights in the herring fisheries. Lakeville's share was based upon the proportion of its ratable polls to Middleboro's ratable polls. The ratio was approximately 15 per cent. at that time.

Laws concerning herring were among the earlier ones enacted in Colonial days. The Indians used the fish to fertilize their corn. They taught the Colonists how to put a fish in each hill with the corn. The Indians depended on herring for food. They used them fresh, and smoked and dried them for future use.

The upstream run for the spawning grounds usually starts the latter part of March and the first of April. Studies made by the State Department of Conservation, Division of Fisheries, indicate that the hatching of young herring follows a three-year-cycle. Young herring spawned and hatched in inland water in the spring and summer of 1950 will make their way down stream to the ocean and return as adult fish to spawn in 1953.

Early in the history of Middleboro, community leaders realized that if the herring was to be protected there must be restrictions on the number of fish taken and the manner in which they were taken. At a town meeting of March 29, 1706, as recorded in Thomas Weston's *History of Middleboro*, Samuel Pratt and Ebenezer Tinkham were authorized to construct a weir, to catch the fish on certain days, and turn them over to any townspeople desiring them at six pence a load.

Throughout the years many regulations and ordinances have been passed regarding the taking of herring, for the number of the herring running upstream in the spring has greatly varied. All through the years however, it has been found necessary to limit the days of each week during which the fish may be taken.

If days are not left open for through-migration of these fish, the result is indicated by a meager fish supply three years later.

Years ago a man by the name of David A. Tucker was known as the herring King. He annually bought the right to catch all the fish which came up the river. Mr. Tucker's specialties were corned herring and smoked herring. He processed them and packed them for export, principally for the West Indies.

One of the prize jobs for youngsters was stringing the herring on sticks, for which they received a cent a string. The fresh fish were placed a dozen to a stick to hang up for smoking. Older folk may remember when herring on sticks were displayed outside markets and when herring peddlers were a common sight in the spring and summer.

In years gone by hundreds of gulls followed the herring up stream and arrived with the first fish, a sign to the natives that the herring run was on.

For years the fish warden saw to it that fishing was only done at legally designated places and by persons authorized to take them.

In 1945, the Eastland Food Products Company bid and paid \$8,600 for the alewife fishing rights. This was the highest price ever paid for the rights. In 1946, the same company paid \$3,100 for permission to seine for the fish. In 1947, The Neptune Food Products of New Bedford bought the fishing rights for \$1,500. This company caught only 75 barrels of herring which must constitute some sort of a record price for herring. The spring of 1947 will be remembered as the first year in the memory of the oldest inhabitants, that the herring failed to come up the Nemasket River and through the sluice-way by the thousands. In normal years the catch has numbered about 15,000 barrels.

For the past three years the herring rights have not been sold. The Nemasket River has been kept open and as free of barriers as possible to permit the herring coming up from the open sea by way of the Taunton River, to pass through Lake Assawompsett to spawn.

## THE INDIAN OVENS

Lakeville has at least two outdoor ovens, believed to have been used by the Indians for baking purposes. These ovens are cut into rocks and are similar to the one in Maine, where the location is the same, on a knoll or hill and near a lake or brook. History of the Indians does not mention use of the ovens, but townspeople who believe the stories handed down through the generations are convinced that they were used for baking purposes.



Indian Oven

The Indian oven in North Lakeville is located on a knoll on the northeast side of Poquoy Brook, or Pudding Brook, so-called because the Indians took water from the brook with which to make their pudding. It also has been known as Swingled Tow Brook. The swingled tow reportedly was wool from the sheep and it was supposed to be washed in spring water. Years ago there was a large sheep farm near the brook.

The oven is a hole drilled about forty inches deep into the rock. The neck of the oven is twelve inches by six inches. The rock itself is eighteen feet long, ten feet wide and about four feet high. It has large cracks as if exposed to intense heat. A visit to the rock shows evidence that archeologists have dug in several places. Two people in that part of the town have told of rushing to the Indian Oven to play before it was time for the bell to ring when they would have to return to the Miller School.

The other oven is on the west shore of Long Pond about three hundred feet from Sandy Beech. It is on a knoll and is in a smaller rock than at North Lakeville; but the oven part is the same size and had a cover that seemed to fit the neck of the oven. This rock is also cracked as if by fire. A stone wall has been built over the oven, using the rock as a foundation. A large walnut tree grows near the rock, showing that many years have passed since the oven was used.

## THE LETCHER FAMILY

The story of the Letcher family is told by Clifton W. Nelson. Most of us remember the Letcher family of Main Street. John, the father, was a slave in the northern part of the south, possibly Virginia, and was brought to Lakeville about 1863 by Abiel Nelson. Mr. Nelson was a doctor in the army at the time of the Civil War.

John Letcher, a lad of about seventeen, was in charge of some of the fine horses of his master in Virginia. His master raised and

trained colts. One of the fine bred horses broke loose one day while John was taking care of him. This made his master angry and he told John if the horse strayed away again he would whip him soundly. Through no fault of John's the horse again broke loose and John was so frightened that he ran away and finally came to the army camp where Dr. Nelson was serving.

The captain of the company told John that he would not send him back to his master, but if his master should come for him he would be obliged to return him. The captain then assigned John to assist Dr. Nelson.

John's master trailed him to the camp and the captain was obliged to tell the owner that John was in the camp and was with Dr. Nelson. As John's master went to locate them, the captain sent word ahead and told them that the man was coming and for John and Dr. Nelson to do as they saw fit. When he arrived the soldiers would not let him find John and so the master went away without the slave. After that, John continued to assist Dr. Nelson and they grew very fond of one another. A short time later, Dr. Nelson was taken seriously ill with a fever and as he began to recover the captain thought it advisable to send him home to Lakeville; but Dr. Nelson was so ill he was unable to travel alone. John said that he would come with him and take care of him on the journey.

After the doctor entirely recovered, he re-enlisted and returned to the South. The slave, John Letcher, stayed in Lakeville and built a home on Main Street, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Mahoney. Mr. Letcher's sister, Alcinda Letcher, came from Virginia to make her home in Lakeville. She built a house on Main Street, a short distance from that of her brother. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jefferson.

There were four children born to John and Nellie Letcher: Viola, Zilpha, Edgar, and Harry.

## THE LAKEVILLE STATE SANATORIUM

The site selected by the State for a tubercular sanatorium was the well-known Doggett Farm, this historic mansion being preserved for the first fifteen years. In 1910, when the Lakeville State Sanatorium was built, the Doggett farm was selected because of its elevation, its beautiful southerly exposure, and its porous sandy soil.

Here was erected a group of buildings which, though simple in construction, rank with the many other State institutions throughout the Commonwealth.

The central building is a frame construction having two stories above a high basement. This basement contains the large general kitchen, a storeroom, a drug room, and dining rooms. Above the main floor are the administration offices, library, and quarters for the superintendent's family and his assistants. The entire upper floor is occupied by employees.

On the east and on the west of this central building are more rooms extending some two hundred and fifty feet in either direction. Facing the south are ward buildings, two in number. These buildings, one for men and the other for women, contain four wards each, and several private rooms. The south front of each ward building is largely of glass and so arranged that several wards may be closed and heated or opened freely for the openair treatment. This group of buildings is heated by steam and lighted by electricity, generated in a power plant on the premises. The water supply comes from Clear Pond.

Doctor Sumner Coolidge of Watertown was appointed the first superintendent of the Lakeville Sanatorium. The present superintendent is Dr. Harry A. Clark.

Great changes have been made at this well-known institution from time to time. Improvements have been made and many more buildings have been added. But in 1925 one was taken away. The Doggett house was demolished and Lakeville lost another old landmark.

## THE JAPANESE GARDENS

In 1902, Nathan Hathaway of New Bedford bought from Abbott Smith a tract of land and buildings on the Old Back Road which is now Lakeside Avenue. The land extended from the road to Long Pond. Mr. Hathaway, president of the New Bedford Institution for Savings, for many years used this place as a summer home. He traveled extensively and made several trips around the world. On his first trip in 1912, he bought trees, shrubs, plants, seeds, and bulbs all over the world, mostly in Japan, and had them sent to his place in Lakeville. He also purchased images from many countries and had them placed in his gardens and woods in the most attractive places. It was the tubercle or knoblike growth on the roots of the iris which gave him the most trouble in getting them into this country.

The sundial was one of the interesting features of the gardens; as was the crow's nest at the top of one of the large straggly oak trees, with its winding wooden stairs.

In any direction could be seen a rustic seat, chair or table. In the woods could be found numerous houses for the birds and rabbits and other wild animals. From early spring until late fall the colorful array and fragrance of the profusion of the flowers attracted many.

Near the road was the well-remembered waiting room with its thatched roof, made from the real reeds imported from Japan. Leading from the waiting room to the house was a wooden walk with rustic arches and stone bridges. Another restful walk was to follow the stone steps from the house down to the lake, where one could sit in the summer house, which was built on the wharf over the water.

With the passing of Mr. Hathaway the lawns and gardens have gradually been forgotten.

## **ELECTRIC CARS**

The construction of the New Bedford, Middleboro and Brockton Street Railway, with its New Bedford terminal at Lund's Corner, was well under way during the spring of 1899. Abbott P. Smith was one of the New Bedford promoters of the road. He gave it the name, Lake Shore Road, since it followed the highway that passed by the south end of Long Pond and ran along the shore of Assawompsett Pond.



The Car Barn

During its period of service, the line was owned by three Street Railway Companies: the Old Colony, the Bay State and the Eastern Massachusetts. The first electric car ran from Brockton as far as Middleboro, June 15, 1899. On Labor Day, of that year, tracks were completed and the first car made the entire trip from Brockton to New Bedford. Later the short line from Lakeville Town House connected with the cars at Eliott's Corner in East Taunton.

The men in charge of the first car, No. 539, were Alfred P. Manton as motorman and Walter Cornell as conductor. Later

this car burned. The cars ran every hour in the winter and every half-hour during the summer months. Like all suburban street railways, the Lake Shore Road had its bonanza period until the automobile came along and put it out of business. On Labor Day, 1919, just twenty years to the day, the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway was discontinued. The men in charge of the last car, No. 4192, to pass over the line were Bertram Manton, son of Alfred P. Manton, as motorman and Albert Harrison as conductor.

The superintendents through the years were A. C. Ralph, George Smith, John Hayes and Alfred P. Manton.

It is needless to say that the conductors and motormen of this enterprise could tell many unusual and amusing incidents connected with the old electric cars.

The car barn was torn down in 1935.

## THE SAILOR'S HOME TOWER

The Sailor's Tower was located far upon the hills to the west of Assawompsett, and off Highland Road, on Benjamin Phillip's farm, near King Philip's Lookout. This tower for many years was a landmark. It has been compared to the famous Norse Tower at Newport. In point of resemblance, the comparison is permissible; in point of age, however, it is quite another story. While the Norse Tower is shrouded in the mists of antiquity, the Lakeville tower bears the date, 1882, carved in the stone above one of its arches.

As the story goes, the National Sailor's Home, which at that time was located at Quincy, was to be moved to Lakeville. Accordingly, a tract of land of about one hundred acres was purchased. The first requisite was water; therefore a sixty-foot well was dug. A place to store the water was next needed and a tower was built of field stones cemented together. Six columns

were constructed with arches between and a big column in the center, to support a massive stone tank which could contain thousands of gallons of water. The tank was to be filled from the well by a wind-mill. An arched roof was added, which was attractively set off by a weather vane. Shortly after the completion of the tower, work on the home was stopped and it was never renewed.



The Sailor's Home Tower

A name often applied to the tower was "The Old Powder House." It is said that the soldiers would go to the powder house to fill their pouches.

This tower was on its way to ruin, when Major and Mrs. A. Hamilton Gibbs took it in hand. Thirteen windows were cut in beneath a new roof. A stairway was built and the spaces between the windows were filled with matched boards. It is in this tower that Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs have worked and written many of their books. This old landmark was burned in 1948.

## THE GOLD - HEADED CANE

The Gold-Headed Cane, which was given to the Town of Lakeville by the *Boston Post* for the eldest resident, has been held by several.

Dennis Tinkham, who lived on the Ministerial Farm and was the oldest person in town, was eligible for the cane; but he did not use a cane and at the time of his death in 1910 it was not certain whether he had accepted it or not.

Josiah DeMaranville, who lived on the Turnpike near Bell School Corner and died in 1911 in his ninety-first year, held the cane.

Orrin C. Cook, a Civil War Veteran, was its owner for awhile, but, before his death, he moved to East Taunton.



SELECTMEN PRESENTING GOLD - HEADED CANE TO MR. STAPLES Chester A. Ashley, Martin K. Staples, Wallace C. Wilkie and Henry L. Pember

Records show that Henry Parry of Freetown Street, who died in 1921 at the age of 90 years, was also holder of the cane.

The cane, after Mr. Parry's death, belonged to Mary Cole Johnson, who lived with the William N. Cudworth family on Bedford Street. She died in 1922.

Charles Dunham of Main Street, who died January 30, 1948, at the age of ninety-six, had the cane in his possession for awhile.

On March 20, 1948, the selectmen of Lakeville presented the Gold Headed Cane to Martin King Staples of County Road, who was ninety-two years old. Mr. Staples died in 1952.

## THE TOWN POUND

Years ago the Town Pound was a common sight but today few are left. In Lakeville there was only one as far as is known. It was located on Shockley's Hill and was built in 1853. It was on the right side of the road, almost opposite the entrance to the Rotch Estate, on what was then the Shaw farm. The lot, twenty-five feet square, was surrounded by a stone wall about five feet high. The stone walls were taken down and the stones used when the new road was built. A wooden gate closed the five-foot opening at the front.

In the early days of the town, cattle were allowed to run freely along the road. Frequently they strolled on to another man's land. It was usually all right, but, if there happened to be unfriendly feelings between the men, a field driver was summoned and the animals were taken to the town pound. There they were placed in charge of the pound keeper. The keeper would feed and care for the animals until the owner was notified. When the owner came for them he had to pay fifty cents per head and expenses. In later years the keeper was allowed to keep the stray animals in his own pasture or barn.

Today one would think of the pound and pound keeper as things of the past. As recently as 1949 the Town of Lakeville had a case of this kind.

## THE TAUNTON PUMPING STATION

In 1894, the City of Taunton built a pumping station on a site adjoining the Walter Parkhurst homestead. The working capacity of its pumps was five million gallons per hour. The water was conveyed through a twenty-four inch pipeline to Elder's Pond, which was used as the reservoir. In 1952, an electric pump house was completed and the old pumping station was no longer needed.



Former Taunton Pumping Station

The people of the Town of Lakeville had been considering obtaining central quarters for town offices. A committee was appointed and recommended the purchasing of the station.

At a special town meeting, held July 1, 1952, the town voted to appropriate seven thousand dollars with which to buy the former pumping station. At the present time the land angle is being investigated and awaits a solution.

## MEMORABLE STORMS

Records tell us that one of the worst snow storms was back in 1717. It began on Sunday and continued until the next Wednesday night. The snow fell at an average depth of seven feet and drifted to the depth of twelve feet. In one storm of that year ten feet of snow fell. Statistics show that in 1740 fences were covered with snow. In 1786 the snow was six feet deep. In 1836 there were twenty weeks of sleighing. In the winter of 1856 - 1857 there were thirty-two snow storms.

The depth of snow in some of the historic storms have been:

1747 - 48—February 22	41/9 feet
1786 - 87—December 4	5 feet
1798 - 99—November 17	41/9 feet
1802 - 03—February 24	5½ feet
1835 - 36—February 20	4 feet
1842 - 43—November 30	11/2 feet
1856 - 57—January 18	6 feet
1898 - 99—November 27	1 foot

During a thunder shower on July 13, 1884, the Town House was struck by lightning. The bolt passed down the chimney knocking off a portion of the top and tearing away the plastering. The stove was turned completely around. A religious meeting was being held in the Town House at the time. Two ladies, Mrs. Abbie Pickens and Mrs. Flecther, were stunned but soon recovered. Two of the horses which were hitched near the building fell to the ground but were not injured.

It was during this same storm that Charles and Arthur Jenney were crossing the large open field at Camp Joe Hooker. They sat

down beneath their umbrella to shield themselves from the pouring rain and it was the last they remembered until they recovered consciousness to find that the lightning had struck a small tree about twenty feet from where they were, entirely uprooting it and tearing a hole in the ground two feet in diameter. They were thoroughly bespattered with mud and slightly burned.

The snow storm of February 5, 1920, can still be remembered. How it snowed, the flakes sweeping horizontally across the lakes and fields to pile high in drifts, while at intervals the rain and sleet descended in sheets. On the second morning the wind had subsided but more snow had fallen during the night. All transportation was suspended and for the first time in the memory of our fathers and grandfathers, the people were without mail delivery. It was during this storm that Dr. Smith hired mules to take him on calls to his patients.

We all well remember the great hurricane of September 21, 1938, which did more damage than is recorded in any other hurricane in history. Starting at 4 p.m. the gales increased until about 9 p.m. when they gradually decreased. By 10 p.m. the danger had passed and by midnight it was virtually gone. All roads were impassable from fallen trees. Many homes were damaged. The telephones and electric lights were out of service for days. Candles were lighted and lanterns appeared. It was several days before the streets and roads were clear and again made passable.

A second hurricane swept this area on the night of September 14, 1944. This time, people had been warned by newspapers and radio and, remembering that many lives were lost in 1938, they were more prepared and, as a result, fewer deaths were reported. Winds increased rapidly between 9 and 10 p.m., and before midnight were blowing at 100 miles an hour in some places. Homes were damaged by falling trees and utilities suffered heavy damage.

## THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

It was on March 14, 1866, that a meeting was held and a library association organized. From the records, those present at this first meeting were Thomas Nelson, Mrs. H. L. Williams, Miss Lizzie P. Nelson, Mrs. Cephas Haskins, Miss Jennie Montgomery, Mrs. Miller Sampson and Miss Anna Hersey. Mr. Nelson was elected the first president of the association.



Lakeville Public Library

The first library was opened at the home of Horatio Sampson with Mr. Sampson as librarian. Some of the books in this library were donated, while others were purchased with money raised by membership fees and by fines. In May, 1866, Hugh Montgomery donated books on the condition that they should be free to the people. In 1867, 497 books were in circulation. By 1868, the number had increased to 1185; in 1869, 1070 books were circulated. Miss Louisa Washburn was librarian in 1869, and the days for lending books were Tuesdays and Fridays.

For a few years the association was discontinued, but on May 28, 1877, another group met at the home of Cephas Haskins to change the constitution and by-laws. A week later, on June 4, 1877, Myrick Haskins was elected president and Miss Lydia Haskins, daughter of Cephas, became the third librarian, using a part of her father's store for the library. In the winter of 1877 the store was burned and all the books were lost except those that were out at the time. However, the library was re-established and again more books were purchased, the funds being raised by a pound-party held at the Town House. Later, the books were kept at the home of Mrs. Miller Sampson. In 1887 her home was destroyed by fire and only a few books were saved.

At the Town meeting of March 2, 1903, Mrs. Arthur Perry made a motion that Lakeville establish a Free Public Library. At first the motion was laid on the table, but before the meeting was adjourned the Town voted to accept the State Library Act of 1890 and also voted twenty-five dollars for the support of a library. Three trustees were appointed: William Hall, Mrs. Annie J. Peirce, and Miss Eloise A. Hafford.

William Montgomery left a legacy of one hundred dollars toward a public library. Gifts amounting to another one hundred dollars were received from Mrs. Cornelia Cook, Mrs. Almira Ashley and Mrs. Mabel Agassiz.

In July of 1903 a library was opened in the Town House. At that time many of our townspeople thought a library of little value but the patronage of the past fifty years has emphasized the wisdom of those who established it.

The library opened with 150 books on the shelves. Frank Y. Hall was the first librarian, issuing 229 cards and circulating 1,119 books in the first five months. In September, 1904, Miss Mary L. Nelson was appointed librarian in charge of 632 books. When the number increased to 782 volumes, a building for housing them became necessary and the ladies of the town began working together to obtain it. Thus the Lakeville Library Sewing Circle was formed.

By 1909 the volumes numbered 1,160. Miss Hannah K. Nelson became librarian, with Miss Mildred Pratt as assistant during the summer months. In 1912 with over 2,000 volumes, the town, through the efforts of O. K. Gerrish, accepted the offer of Andrew Carnegie to erect a five thousand dollar building, with the provision that a yearly appropriation of five hundred dollars be made.

The lot on which our library now stands belonged to the Washburn estate and had been given to the town for a school or other educational purposes. The school had been moved years before and the lot was now vacant. Mrs. Annie Peirce, who was a leader in this undertaking, wrote to the Washburn heirs, asking if the town might have the lot for a public library building. Their consent was readily given.

To earn the needed money the Sewing Circle sponsored fairs, lawn parties, whist parties and dances. They also served suppers and town meeting luncheons. The sum of one thousand and one dollars was raised to build and furnish the basement.

On August 26, 1914, the new home of the Lakeville Public Library was dedicated.

Since the erection of the building there have been many changes and improvements: electricity, a new furnace, a water system, a cement floor in the basement, and an oil burner.

There has been an increase in the number of volumes and in the circulation. The circulation increased to such an extent that in 1931 it was considered advisable to open the library on Thursday evenings in addition to the afternoon sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In 1916 the circulation was 6,103; in 1933, 11,357, and in 1951 it was 9,930. The number of volumes in 1914 was 2,281; in 1934, 5,256, and in 1951, there were 6,695 volumes.

Miss Hannah K. Nelson remained as librarian, resigning in 1928. Mrs. Ono Goodridge assumed the position until her death in 1930. The following have been librarians and assistants since 1930:

## Librarians:

Mrs. Grant Hoard, 1930-1940.

Mrs. Mildred Stafford, 1940 to the present time.

## Assistant librarians:

Miss Jeanette Bassett, 1930-1933.

Mrs. Gordon MacNeill, 1933-1934.

Miss Bertha Stiles, 1934.

Mrs. Halbert Reed, 1935.

Mrs. Theodore Sopa, 1935-1938.

Mrs. Ellis Williams, 1938-1939.

Mrs. George Penniman, 1940 to present time (substitute).

Mrs. George Penniman, 1950 (acting librarian during Mrs. Stafford's leave of absence).

Mrs. Mildred L. Stafford, 1935-1940.

Mrs. Cuthbert Bowles, 1940-1942, 1947.

Miss Helen Norton, 1942-1943.

Miss Faith Williams, 1943-1944.

Miss Anne Begley, 1944-1945.

Miss Phyllis Wilbur, 1944-1945 (substitute).

Miss Annette Perkins, 1945-1946.

Miss Josephine Scanlon, 1946-1947.

Mrs. C. Donald Turner, 1950 to the present time.

Miss Marjorie Smith, 1947-1949.

Miss Natalie Turner, 1947 (substitute).

Miss Virginia Turner, 1949.

Since 1940 an aid to circulation has been the Bookmobile which calls at the library once a month.

On March 10, 1941, the oil burner exploded, filling the library with smoke and soot. It was necessary to have the furnace repaired and the interior of the library and the books cleaned.

In 1941 the woodwork in the basement was destroyed by termites and replaced with tile.

In 1947 a gift was received of a grandfather clock which was manufactured by Joseph Gooding of Dighton during the years 1800-1810. The original owner of the clock was Uriah Sampson, who was proprietor of the famous Sampson Tavern from 1838-1845 and again from 1848-1852. The clock was given by the granddaughters of Uriah Sampson, Mrs. Carrie Crane and Mrs. Abbie Washburn, with the stipulation that it should be kept running.

Down through the years the trustees have been:

Mrs. Annie J. Peirce, 1903-1920.

Miss Eloise A. Hafford, 1903-1905.

William Hall, 1903.

Mrs. Julia Bassett, 1916-1930.

Mrs. Myra A. Hammond, 1916-1924.

Mrs. Annie Peirce Haynes Kelly, 1920-1927.

Mrs. Ono Goodridge, 1924-1930.

Mrs. Annie Bennett, 1927-1931.

Mrs. John G. Paun, 1930 to the present time.

Mrs. Everett Grant, 1930-1945.

Mrs. N. Merrill Sampson, 1931-1943, 1945 to the present time.

Mrs. Theodore Sopa, 1943 to the present time.

In the beginning the branch libraries at North and South Lakeville were conducted under the careful management of Mrs. William F. Harlow and Miss Eloise Hafford.

In 1905 Miss Hafford resigned and was replaced by Mrs. Sally Winslow as librarian. In 1908 the vacancy caused by the death of Mrs. Winslow was filled by Mrs. Jerusha Washburn. In 1912 the South Lakeville branch was transferred to the home of Mrs. Alton Hoard. Mrs. Hoard continued in charge until 1926 when the South branch was discontinued. In the 1940 town report

of the librarian we find that the Bookmobile service to the people of South Lakeville was started by leaving books at the home of Mrs. Ina Washburn. In 1941 a branch library was opened at the home of Mrs. Christian Lang.

In 1912 Mrs. Godfrey Robinson was in charge of the North Lakeville branch, the books being kept at her home on Taunton Road. In 1914 Mrs. Robinson resigned and was replaced by Mrs. George Holloway who kept the position until 1923. Mrs. Robinson was again elected librarian for the North Lakeville branch. This branch is now conducted by Mrs. Stephen Roberts.

## TESTIMONIAL FOR CHESTER ASHLEY AND JOHN G. PAUN

On January 30, 1951, Lakeville citizens honored Chester Ashley, selectman and assessor, and John G. Paun, town clerk and treasurer, for their long and faithful services. More than one hundred and seventy persons gathered at a testimonial dinner held at Linden Lodge. Following the dinner, a reception was held at the Assawompsett School, at which time each was presented with one hundred dollars. Mr. Ashley, 86, and Mr. Paun, 80, shook hands with and received congratulations from over two hundred friends.

Mr. Ashley had served continually for twenty-nine years, as selectman and assessor. In 1910 he was elected a member of the school committee and served one term of three years.

Mr. Paun was appointed moderator and auditor in 1902, continuing until 1923 when he was elected town clerk, treasurer and tax collector, offices he still holds.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

At the town meeting held June 9, 1949, it was voted that all matters pertaining to fire protection should be under the control of a Board of Fire Engineers, appointed by the selectmen. The board will serve without pay and will have complete control of all fire apparatus. They are to appoint the officers and the chief of the fire department.

The members of the Board of Fire Engineers appointed were Walter A. D. Clark, chairman; Edward DeMello, secretary; Joseph Gladu, Harold Hemmingson, Edmund S. Knysinski, fire chief; Frank Orrall, and Charles L. Weston, deputy chief.

In 1949 a fire siren was purchased and installed on the Town House, and a two-way radio was installed on one of the trucks.

In 1950, the red net-work was installed, whereby six members, including the chief and deputy chief, are notified when the fire number is called.

The department now (1952) has three pieces of apparatus, all triple combination, a 1950 Dodge, 1939 Dodge and a 1928 Maxim, with a total carrying capacity of 1300 gallons of water.

## THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE CLUB

During World War I a group of young girls organized the Red, White and Blue Club. These girls, under the leadership of Mrs. Cranston Jennings, made and sent many articles to the American Red Cross for the boys over seas.

After the close of the war the club erected a boulder on the lawn of Lakeville's Public Library, in honor of those servicemen. As president of the Red, White and Blue Club, your author had the pleasure of presenting to the Town of Lakeville a boulder in commemoration of the boys who fought in World War I. Fred Shockley, chairman of the selectmen at that time, accepted the boulder in behalf of the town.

## DID YOU KNOW -

In 1904 the Southern Massachusetts Telephone Company introduced its farmers' line from Middleboro to Lakeville Junction.

At one time candy was made in one of the buildings at the rear of the Washburn House.

William DeMaranville's death was in a Boston paper two weeks before he died.

Records show that Chester Ashley's father and mother were married September 31st. (30 days has September).

At a colonial tea given by the Nemasket Chapter D.A.R. in February, 1916, Mrs. John Hiram Nelson appeared in the gown worn at her wedding more than sixty years before. It was a fine piece of silk and had not even been altered since her wedding day.

Stone quarries were in operation years ago on the Old Pit Road, which is now Peirce Avenue. Gravestones were made there. At one time they were called the Carroll Pits and later they were operated by John Peirce. The last operators were Frank Taylor, John Alden and Ethan Peirce.

## CHAPTER VIII

## **SCHOOLS**



N reviewing briefly the records of the school committees down through the years, Lakeville is, and ever has been, characterized as liberal in support of its public schools, and ranks among the first, for a town of its

size, in the state. It was November 11th, 1647, that the General Court of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay in New England passed a law making schools free and their support compulsory.

In 1853 when Lakeville was incorporated as a town there were twelve school districts.

The district number, name of district and teachers' names were as follows:

No. 1, Miller—Martha Copeland, J. R. Putman and Betsey Kensley.

No. 2, Haskins—Cassandria Shaw and Sarah C. Coombs.

No. 3, Upper Corners—Caroline T. Wood and Abby Canedy.

No. 4, Washburn—E. Washburn Coy and Mary A. Phillips.

No. 5, Neck-Matthew H. Cushing and Susan S. Canedy.

No. 6, McCully—E. W. Barrows.

No. 7, Canedy-Mary B. Canedy.

No. 8, Sears—Catherine Bishop.

No. 9, G. Haskins-Sarah E. Evans and Tirza S. Morse.

No. 10, Beech Woods—Sarah A. Tinkham.

No. 11, Strobridge—Matilda P. Briggs.

No. 12, Precinct—Adeline V. Wood and Charlotte Barstow.

In the second report of the school committee there were only eleven schools. District No. 11, which was at that time the Strobridge School, was closed for a few years. When re-opened it became No. 10, and the Precinct School was then called District No. 11.

The first school report tells that there was appropriated by the town for the support of schools \$1000 and that \$70.95 was received from the State, which, with some contributions from the districts, made the sum spent for schools between \$1100 and \$1200.

In 1858 a private school was conducted in the center district, for one term, by a Miss Agnes S. Goulding.

In 1858 the town appropriated \$1199 for schools. One-third of this amount was divided equally among the districts, and the remaining two-thirds, with the amount received from the State (which was \$49.35), made \$1248.35 which was divided equally among the scholars and given each district as follows:

School	No.	1	with	36	scholars	\$168.02
School	No.	2	with	22	scholars	116.81
School	No.	3	with	22	scholars	116.81
School	No.	4	with	19	scholars	105.87
School	No.	5	with	28	scholars	136.76
School	No.	6	with	18	scholars	102.11
School	No.	7	with	21	scholars	113.18
School	No.	8	with	15	scholars	91.22
School	No.	9	with	25	scholars	127.79
School	No.	10	with	10	scholars	72.92
School	No.	12	with	16	scholars	94.86

A State law required that every town which was divided into school districts should, at its annual meeting in 1863, and every third year thereafter, vote upon the question of abolishing such districts. Lakeville, in accordance, voted upon the question at its annual meeting held in March 1866, and it was decided to abolish the system. When the district system had been abolished, they decided it was the duty of the school committee to select and contract with the teachers. But, at a subsequent meeting (an adjournment of that March meeting), the town voted to reconsider the vote wherein they had agreed to abolish the district system, and in place thereof voted that each district choose its own prudential committee. The prudential committees were

#### **SCHOOLS**

authorized and instructed to select and contract with teachers and to run their schools six months in the year. This trust seems to have been somewhat abused by the different committees, as the wages of the teachers range all the way from sixteen to thirtytwo dollars per month. The cost of wood was from three to twenty dollars for the winter term in schools of the same size.

In 1867, the report shows that the number of scholars attending school in the summer was one hundred and ninety-six and in the winter two hundred and twelve.

The most serious problem in the schools in the early days seemed to be the irregular attendance and year after year this was pointed out by the school committees in their annual reports. The reports also urged the parents to visit the schools and see for themselves the needs and conditions existing.

In 1875, at the annual March meeting, it was voted that each of the schools should be continued eight months in the year.

The town had a habit of moving the schoolhouses, thus reversing the usual order of things; for instead of the children going to school, the schoolhouse was moved to the children.

Up until 1885, No. 9, the Beech Woods School, had quite a respectable number of scholars, but all at once the number became very small. The school committee decided that there were four schoolhouses which were concerned. If No. 7, Canedy School, could be located midway between No. 7 and No. 9 all the children could be accommodated in that section. Then again, if No. 4, which was the Washburn School and which had been closed for want of scholars, could be taken and centrally located between No. 4 and No. 6 which was the McCully, then, as in the first case, all the children in that territory would be provided for. But it was thought best to ask the advice of the town, so as to give every one a chance to express his opinion. A committee was appointed to select and buy two lots on which to set the houses, and to sell the two remaining schoolhouses at public auction, and to move No. 4, the Washburn, and No. 7, the Canedy, on to their respective lots. This was done. It was only a few days after the town meeting which voted the moving of the school-

houses that another town meeting was called and a vote passed to move the two schoolhouses back again to the places from whence they had been taken.

At a special town meeting, held April 21, 1879, it was voted that schools No. 10 (Strobridge) and No. 11 (Precinct) be combined, and one of the schoolhouses be moved to a place where it would be most convenient for the scholars and the inhabitants. The selectmen were to move one of the schoolhouses in No. 10 or No. 11 where they and the school committee thought best, and they were to sell the other. Schoolhouse No. 11 (Precinct) was then advertised by the selectmen for sale at a public auction. School was in session in the schoolhouse at the time and no location had been decided on as provided for by the vote of the town, therefore, when the day arrived for the sale, it was indefinitely postponed. Another meeting was held and it was voted to remove No. 10 schoolhouse to a lot near John Montgomery's home on Montgomery Street, at the head of Hill Street.

The selectmen again advertised schoolhouse No. 11 for sale at auction, and this time one of the school committee members purchased it for the small price of \$45.00. The school committee had nothing further, under the vote of the town, to do in relation to the location of No. 10. The selectmen proceeded to move it to the lot designated, and to put it into condition for holding the fall term of school. Since No. 11 (Precinct) had been permanently discontinued by the sale of the house, it became apparent to the committee that a part of the scholars of No. 2 (Haskins), heretofore conveniently accommodated at No. 11, would have to be provided for in some other way. Accordingly it was voted to start a school for the fall term at No. 2. When it started, the scholars at No. 11 attended it, having no other school. Of these scholars there were nine. They had nearly reached the middle of the term when schoolhouse No. 10 (Montgomery) became ready for occupancy. Since the boys and girls were well started in their various studies, there was strong objection to having them changed, although their parents were earnestly requested to do so. Having allowed those of No. 10 their choice of school for the spring term, the school committee could not

#### **SCHOOLS**

now reasonably compel those of No. 11 to make this change, which was so much against their wishes. Therefore the scholars continued to go to No. 2 for the remainder of the year.

In 1888 a law was passed by the State Legislature permitting two or more small towns to unite in the employment of a superintendent of schools. In 1900 an amendment to this law was passed, whereby all towns must employ such a superintendent before July 1, 1901. In April, the Town of Lakeville united with the towns of Rochester and Carver in employing a superintendent of schools. Chester W. Humphrey was appointed and held that position until 1920. W. J. B. MacDougall was superintendent of schools for two years, 1921-1923. In 1923, Arthur B. Webber became superintendent and remained in office until 1938 when Donald P. Mattoon became superintendent. At a special meeting on November 26, 1940, at the Assawompsett School, the Union Committee elected George R. Austin as superintendent of schools to begin January 1, 1941.

The School Superintendency Union No. 40 has been in existence since 1902 but the first report of its work was published in 1939. This Union includes the Towns of Carver, Lakeville and Rochester. The members of the school committees of the three towns comprise the Union Committee of nine members.

Mrs. Mary Fuller was the first school nurse in the year 1923. The first report of the school nurse was in the 1924 Town Report. Mrs. Fuller held the position for eighteen years until the appointment of Mrs. Doris Brown in September, 1942. Mrs. Madeline Pitman Baker submitted her first annual report as school nurse in 1945 and is still holding that position (1952).

Dr. A. Vincent Smith, M.D., was school physician for many years. The first account of medical inspection was reported in 1911. Dr. Smith continued as the school doctor until 1950 when, because of ill health, he was unable to continue his practice. Dr. Edward L. Perry was appointed at that time.

The first diphtheria prevention clinic was held in 1936. The first annual dental clinic was held in 1936 and was discontinued in 1944. The school children of Lakeville have had the benefit

of dental service and in 1939-1940 there were five hundred and forty-one dental operations performed. In 1940 the audiometer, a machine for testing the hearing of the pupils, was purchased.

It was in 1924 that the eight-grade system replaced the nine grades.

## THROUGH ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SCHOOL

Members of the school committees, down through the years, with a few omissions, due to the lack of Town Reports, have been:

1864—Myricks Haskins and Henry L. Williams.

1865-M. Haskins, H. L. Williams and Thomas M. Nelson.

1866-67-M. Haskins and H. L. Williams.

1867-68—James W. Ward, H. L. Williams and M. Haskins.

1868-69-H. L. Williams, M. Haskins and E. W. Barrows.

1869-70—M. Haskins, E. W. Barrows, H. L. Williams, Benjamin H. Strobridge, S. S. Stetson, John F. Allen, David Ashley, Isaac Sampson and J. F. Montgomery.

1870—M. Haskins, H. L. Williams, B. H. Strobridge, E. W. Barrows, D. Ashley, J. F. Allen, John Sears and C. T. Westgate.

1871-M. Haskins, H. L. Williams and Mrs. Job Peirce.

1872-73-74—H. L. Williams, E. W. Barrows and Eunice R. Peirce.

1874—H. L. Williams, E. W. Barrows and Leander Winslow.

1875—H. L. Williams, Leander Winslow and S. S. Stetson.

1876—Leander Winslow, H. L. Williams and S. S. Stetson.

1877—S. S. Stetson, H. L. Williams and Otis Southworth.

1878—Otis Southworth, H. L. Williams and James Peirce.

1879—H. L. Williams and Otis Southworth.

1880—Elbridge Cushman, H. L. Williams and James Peirce.

1881—H. L. Williams, E. Cushman and Sidney T. Nelson.

1882—E. Cushman, H. L. Williams and S. T. Nelson.

1883—H. L. Williams, S. T. Nelson and L. Winslow.

1884-85—E. W. Barrows, James P. Peirce and E. Cushman.

1886—E. W. Barrows, E. Cushman and H. L. Williams.

1887—E. Cushman, H. L. Williams and S. T. Nelson.

1888—H. L. Williams, S. T. Nelson and Ebenezer Dawes.

1889-90—S. T. Nelson, E. Dawes and J. F. Allen.

1891—J. F. Allen, S. T. Nelson and Leavitt C. Caswell.

1892—S. T. Nelson, L. C. Caswell and Thomas F. Hafford.

1893—S. T. Nelson and L. C. Caswell.

1894—T. F. Hafford, H. L. Williams and L. C. Caswell.

1895—S. T. Nelson, H. L. Williams and T. F. Hafford.

1896—H. L. Williams, T. F. Hafford and Elizabeth B. Cushman.

1897—T. F. Hafford, Elizabeth B. Cushman and S. T. Nelson.

1898—E. B. Cushman, S. T. Nelson and Charles P. Swift.

1899—S. T. Nelson and C. P. Swift.

## **SCHOOLS**

- 1900—S. T. Nelson, C. P. Swift, Myra Hammond and L. C. Caswell. 1901—S. T. Nelson, Eloise A. Hafford, M. Hammond and Jennie E. Pratt.
- 1902-03—S. T. Nelson, J. E. Pratt and E. A. Hafford.
- 1904—E. A. Hafford, J. E. Pratt, S. Irving Pickens and Frank Y. Hall.
- 1905—J. E. Pratt, S. I. Pickens, Chester Ashley and L. C. Caswell.
- 1906—S. I. Pickens, C. Ashley, L. C. Caswell, Annie J. Peirce and F. A. Shaw.
- 1907—F. A. Shaw, A. J. Peirce and L. C. Caswell.
- 1908-09—L. C. Caswell, A. J. Peirce and F. A. Shaw.
- 1910—L. C. Caswell, A. J. Peirce and Frank B. Williams. 1911—A. J. Peirce, L. C. Caswell, S. T. Nelson, Nathaniel G. Staples and Alton T. Hoard.
- 1912—S. T. Nelson, F. B. Williams, A. T. Hoard and N. G. Staples.
- 1913—S. T. Nelson, A. T. Hoard and M. A. Hammond.
- 1914-15-16—A. T. Hoard, S. T. Nelson and M. A. Hammond.
- 1917-18-19-20-21-22-23—A. T. Hoard, M. A. Hammond and L. C. Caswell.
- 1924-L. C. Caswell, Leslie H. Norton and George H. Northcott.
- 1925-26-L. C. Caswell, L. H. Norton and G. H. Northcott.
- 1927—L. H. Norton, E. R. Peirce and L. C. Caswell.
- 1928-L. C. Caswell, E. R. Peirce and Byron M. Nute.
- 1929—L. H. Norton, E. R. Peirce and Merle C. Washburn.
- 1930-L. H. Norton, M. C. Washburn and Harriett Grant.
- 1931—L. H. Norton, M. C. Washburn and H. Grant.
- 1932-M. C. Washburn, H. Grant and Sumner Coolidge.
- 1933-34-35—S. Coolidge, H. Grant and M. C. Washburn.
- 1936—S. Coolidge, M. C. Washburn and Maude B. Smith.
- 1937—S. Coolidge, M. B. Smith and Ina Washburn.
- 1938—Ralph W. Baker, M. B. Smith and I. A. Washburn.
- 1939-40-41-42-43—R. W. Baker, I. A. Washburn and L. H. Norton.
- 1944—R. W. Baker, L. H. Norton and Alice E. Norris.
- 1945-46-47-48—R. W. Baker, A. E. Norris and W. Hollis Blackburn.
- 1949-R. W. Baker, A. E. Norris, W. H. Blackburn and Norma E. Perkins.
- 1950-W. H. Blackburn, Harold L. Griffith, N. E. Perkins and R. W. Baker (resigned).
- 1951-52-W. H. Blackburn, N. E. Perkins and H. L. Griffith.

#### THE MILLER SCHOOL—No. 1

The Miller School, which was district No. 1, was located on Taunton Road on the site of the present North Lakeville School. This school was in a union district with Middleborough, and was reported by and the expenses paid by the school committee of each town on alternate years until about 1866. Later different amounts for different years were due from the Town of Middleboro.



Miller School

## Some of the teachers have been:

1853—Martha Copeland and J. R. Putnam.

1854—A. M. Thurber and H. A. Crandall.

1855—Carrie E. Weston and James H. Weston.

1856—Sarah D. White and Ansel C. Richmond.

1857—S. Andrews was the prudential committee.

1858—Elizabeth C. Pratt and James H. Weston.

1859—Rhoda Miller and Warren H. Southworth.

The reports for 1860-61-62-63 are not available.

1864—Middleborough reported the records.

1865—Carrie Weston.

1866—Reported by Middleborough.

1867—Emily Macomber and Warren H. Southworth.

1868—Reported by Middleborough.

1869—W. Emma Thompson and Thomas P. Paull.

1870—Lydia E. Conant both summer and winter.

1871—Hannah L. and Addie F. Freeman taught the summer term and Han nah N. Dillingham taught the winter term.

1872—Hannah N. Dillingham and Annie J. Woodard.

1873—Hannah N. Dillingham.

1874—H. L. Hathaway.

1875—Hattie L. Hathaway.

1876—Abbie H. Harris.

1877—Lucy E. Gasset and Emma F. Darling.

1878—Annie F. Richmond and A. B. Southworth.

1879—Eudora Lawrence, Amey H. Pierce and Leavitt C. Caswell.

## **SCHOOLS**

- 1880—Hannah L. Soule and Julia P. Edwards.
- 1881—Sarah Crane.
- 1882—Sarah Crane, Fannie E. Nelson and Amey P. Pierce.
- 1883—Hannah K. Nelson and Nellie W. Winslow.
- 1884—Margaret A. Walker and Abbie Alden.
- 1885—Josephine G. Thaxter (2 days), Annie C. Heart and Margaret A. Walker.
- 1886—Mary E. Dean.
- 1887-Viola N. Clark and Annie H. Weston.
- 1888—Annie H. Weston.
- 1889—Annie H. Weston and Anna S. Dawes.
- 1890—Anna S. Dawes, Bessie B. Dawes, Myra Cushing and Carrie E. Chapman.
- 1891—Lillian B. Alden, Rilla E. Alden and Mary A. Young.
- 1892—Mary A. Young and Florence E. Thompson.
- 1893—Florence E. Thompson and Annie T. Blackman.
- 1894—Annie T. Blackman.
- 1895—Emma E. Chubbuck.
- 1896—Emma E. Chubbuck, Julia M. Taylor and Ruth May Petti.
- 1897—Kate Farlin and Clara A. Furbush.
- 1898-M. E. Bemis and Sara E. Howard.
- 1899—Sarah E. Howard.
- 1900-Sarah E. Howard and Eliza C. Howland.
- 1901—Eliza C. Howland and Mabel Sampson.
- 1902—Mabel Sampson, Anjie Rose, Eve French and Grace Baker.
- 1903—Grace Baker.
- 1904—Grace Baker.
- 1905—Grace Baker.
- 1906—Grace Baker and Mary Bump.
- 1907—Mary Bump and Sarah Holland.
- 1908—Sarah J. Holland and Laura Bump.
- 1909—Laura Bump.
- 1910—Laura Bump and Emma L. Handy.
- 1911—Emma L. Handy.
- 1912—Emma L. Handy and Margaret M. Murril.
- 1913—Eula C. Bryant.
- 1914—Beatrice E. Drake.
- 1915—Effie D. W. Tucker.

In 1914 the new school house was built at North Lakeville.

## HASKINS SCHOOL — No. 2

The Haskins School stood on the right side of Rhode Island Road, northeast of Harrison Avenue. In 1890, school was held just one week of the spring term, and then the children were transported to No. 4, which was the Washburn School at the center. The schoolhouse was sold at auction and first moved to Bedford Street across from the Nellie Horr place. Later, William DeMaranville bought it and used it as a carriage shed and cow barn. The marks of the desks against the walls can still be seen today. Some of the teachers who taught at the Haskins School were:

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1853—Betsey Kensley and Cassandria Shaw.
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1854—E. A. Thompson and Sanford Weston.

1855—Paulina T. Wood and Sarah B. Thatcher.

1856—Sarah B. Thatcher and Myrick Haskins.

1857—Report of H. Bradford Leonard who was the prudential committee for that district: Summer school, eight weeks, \$32.00; winter school, ten weeks, \$45.00; wood furnished by Levi Recd, \$5.00.

1858—H. Frances Seekell and Cassandria W. Shaw.

1859—Maria E. Wood.

1860-61-62-63—Not available.

1864—Betsey Kinsley.

1865—H. E. Williams and H. T. Montgomery.

1866—Clarinda Macomber.

1867—Lizzie B. Hathaway.

1868—Susie M. Nichols.

1869—Addie R. Lawrence.

1870—Myra F. Cudworth.

1871—Mary A. Haskins and Mary A. Montgomery.

1872—Cassie M. Barrows and Erestina Whittier.

1873—Josephine R. Randall.

1874—P. Hattie Peirce and Georgiana Peterson.

1875—Georgiana Peterson.

1876—Frank Copeland.

1877—Alice B. Southworth and Lucy E. Gassett.

1878—Alice B. Southworth and Annie F. Richmond.

1879—Hattie S. Thatcher.

1880—Alice V. Winslow.

1881—Alice V. Winslow and Lizzie S. Cushman.

1882—Lizzie S. Cushman and Ella J. Read.

1883—Ella J. Read and M. J. Bump.

1884—M. J. Bump, Hannah K. Nelson and Rudora Lawrence.

1885-86—Sarah Crane. 1887—Sarah Crane and Rhoda W. Peirce. 1888—Rhoda W. Peirce and Annie S. Dawes.

1889—Annie S. Dawes and Bessie B. Dawes.

1890—Bessie B. Dawes, one week in the spring.

## UPPER CORNERS—No. 3

The Upper Corners schoolhouse was located on Main Street near the Upper Four Corners and it was District Number 3. Information and pictures of this school seem to be scarce.



#### UPPER CORNERS SCHOOL

Girls: Addie Swift, Ada Rogers, Elsie Morgan, Viola Letcher, Mary Bump, Carrie Shockley, Susie Bump, Lucy Swift, Ethel Norris, Mildred Moody, Alma Bennett, Zilpha Letcher and Gladys Shockley.

Boys: Henry Davis, Charles Bump, Kenneth Morgan, Marcus Bassett, Harold Griffith, Earl Card and Herbert Norris. Picture taken about 1898.

Some of the teachers down through the years have been:

- 1853—Sarah C. Coombs and Caroline T. Wood.
- 1854—Betsey Kinsley and Ansel Richmond.
- 1855-Esther Delano and James H. Weston.
- 1856—Sarah J. Tisdale and James H. Weston.
- 1857—The teacher's name is not given. J. C. Bump was the prudential committee.
- 1858—Elvira F. Clark and Alden B. Chase.
- 1859—Sarah J. Tisdale and W. Anna Harding.
- The reports for 1860-61-62-63 are not available.
- 1864—Lucia A. Drake.
- 1865—C. R. Dean and Lucy A. Cushman.
- 1866—Helen R. Townsend.

- 1867—Carrie W. Leach and Lurana L. Smith.
- 1868—Sarah B. Cobb and Lizzie Cobb.
- 1869—Lizzie Cobb and Jennie Patten.
- 1870—Lucy H. Pickens.
- 1871—Mattie W. Morton and Sarah A. C. Play.
- 1872—Sarah S. Bump.
- 1873—Sarah S. Bump and Laura H. Pickens.
- 1874—Laura H. Pickens and A. L. Hinckley.
- 1875—M. Jennie Bump.
- 1876—A. A. C. Harvey and L. M. L. Jackson.
- 1877—Emma F. Darling and Alice B. Southworth.
- 1878—Emma F. Darling and Lucy E. Gassett.
- 1879—Lucy E. Gassett.
- 1880—Belle F. Macomber and Mary E. Churback.
- 188!—W. Anna Harding and Annie F. Cummings.
- 1882—Annie F. Cummings and Ellen P. Chace.
- 1883—Sarah Crane.
- 1884—M. Jennie Bump and Margaret A. Walker.
- 1885—Records are missing.
- 1886-Annie C. Hart, Ella C. Robinson and Susie E. Walker.
- 1887—Susie E. Walker and Mary R. Burke.
- 1888-Bessie B. Dawes, Rhoda W. Pierce and Lillie B. Andrews.
- 1889—Lizzie Leonard.
- 1890—Marion P. Alden.
- 1891—Marion P. Alden, Adele Floyd and Stella S. Baker.
- 1892—Stella Baker.
- 1893—Edith C. Holland.
- 1894—Edith C. Holland, Sarah Biffin and H. S. Fawell.
- 1895—H. S. Fawell.
- 1896—Maymie Hanson and Sarah J. Holland.
- 1897—Ethelwyn Rea and Lizzie B. Thomas.
- 1898—A. R. Bailey and Ida J. Hardy.
- 1899—Ida J. Hardy and Effie D. Williams.
- 1900—Effie D. Williams and Florence Hathaway.
- 1901—Effie D. Williams.
- 1902—Effie D. Williams and Abbie G. Pattle.
- 1903—Abbie G. Pattle and Blanche Tillson.
- 1904—Mrs. John Beldon.
- 1905—Mrs. John Beldon.
- 1906—Mrs. John Beldon and Grace Baker.
- 1907—Grace Baker and Mrs. Elmer Swift.
- 1908—Winnie R. Swift.
- 1909-Winnie R. Swift and Elizabeth H. Benson.
- 1910-Winnie R. Swift and Elizabeth H. Benson.
- 1911—Elizabeth H. Benson.
- 1912—Elizabeth H. Benson for the spring term.

In the fall, school was started at the new Assawompsett School.

After a few years, the Upper Corners schoolhouse was remodeled and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hill of Main street.

## WASHBURN SCHOOL — No. 4

The Washburn School was located across the road from the Town House where the Public Library is today. The land was deeded to a Levi Haskins for the Town of Middleboro by Amos and Luther Washburn in consideration of \$54, with the stipulation that it be used for a school. When the schoolhouse was moved to Precinct, the land reverted to the owners of the Old Washburn House. A quitclaim deed, signed by Emma Hinds and Fred C. Hinds, June 29, 1912, was given to the Town of Lakeville.



WASHBURN SCHOOL

Left to right: Bessie Deane, ..... Smith, ..... Smith, Mabel Sampson, Will Anderson, Charlie Reynolds, Mabel F. Brown, Ruth H. Cushman, Lillie Brown, Elsie Staples, Elsie Sampson, and Ralph M. Bassett. Taken about 1892.

In the records of October 8, 1866, there was some damage done to this schoolhouse by the gale, which caused the school to be closed for a week. In 1883 the school was again closed for the lack of scholars.

Following is a list of some of the teachers and the dates when they taught at the Washburn School:

1853—Abby Canedy and E. Washburn Coy.

1854—Mary E. Mason and Abiel W. Nelson.

1855—Tamah Webb and Matilda P. Briggs.

1856—Hannah K. Peirce and Sarah Thatcher.

1857—The report of the prudential committee: J. M. Sampson shows the school was open for ten weeks in the summer and ten weeks in the winter at the cost of \$90.50.

1858—Fanny P. Williams and H. Frances Seekell.

1859—Fanny P. Williams and F. H. Hodges.

1860-61-62-63—The reports are unavailable.

1864—S. A. T. Pickens, in the summer, and no winter school.

1865—Elvira F. Jenny and S. A. Pickens.

1866-67—Eudora M. Allen.

1868—Matilda J. Bump and Jennie Bassett.

1869—Bertha L. Thurber.

1870—Mary E. Allen.

1871—Celia L. Deane, Myra A. Keith and Annie J. Woodward.

1872—Ella F. Spooner and Lillie T. Clark.

1873—Lillie T. Westgate and Emma F. Darling.

1874—Emma F. Darling.

1875—Mary F. Hagen and Lizzie J. Wilson.

1876—Lizzie J. Wilson.

1877—Henrietta Hamblin and Lura S. Sawin.

1878—Emma F. Darling and Lucy E. Gassett.

1879-80—Nellie W. Winslow.

1881—Bessie Chace and Alice V. Winslow.

1882—Alice V. Winslow and Lizzie J. Wilson.

1883—Lizzie J. Wilson.

In 1885 the school committee decided to move No. 4 to a point midway between that location and School No. 6, which was the McCully School, so that all children in that territory could be accommodated. Thus the Washburn schoolhouse was moved to Highland Road, just to the east of the Old Town Pound. After the schoolhouse was moved, it was found that there was no water for the children to drink. This caused quite a discussion, and one of the school committee, James P. Peirce, suggested that the old town pump, which was at the Town House, be moved to the new location.

It was only a few days after the town meeting which voted the moving of the schoolhouse, that another town meeting was called and a vote passed to move the schoolhouse back from whence it had been taken.

1886—Mary E. Sampson.

1887-88-89-90-91-92—Annie C. Hart.

1887—Clara A. Tolman.

1892-Eloise A. Hafford, Bessie Eaton and Sarah W. Mendall.

1893—Sarah W. Mendall and Sarah J. Holland.

1894—Sarah W. Mendall and Katie D. Heath.

1895-Katie D. Heath and Delia K. Kingman.

In 1896 the Washburn School was moved for the last time to Precinct at a cost of \$126 and became the Precinct School.

## THE NECK SCHOOL — No. 5

The Neck School, which stood for 116 years at the end of the Old Back Road on the Turnpike, was built in 1796. It was a familiar landmark and was widely known. It was built as a meeting house for the Baptists. Rev. Stephen Nelson served the people as the pastor on the Sabbath and as schoolmaster on week days. When the structure was first erected it was thought best to have a bell. Accordingly one was secured and placed in a small cupola. The fact that bells were scarce in those days is said to have caused the citizens to call this particular school the "Bell School." The bell remained as long as the schoolhouse and was used to call the tardy scholars back from their play at recess. In the records this school is referred to as the Neck School, because this part of the town was known for years as Assawompsett Neck.

There was a hog-back stove in the building, which was one of the most curious heating arrangements in existence. The stove greatly resembled a hog, with its long oval body mounted on four small legs. It was cast in Assonet, over a century ago, by Captain Job Peirce and it has stood the test of time. On one occasion the scholars tried to blow it up, having partially filled it with powder, but they could not do it. After the closing of the school, the old hog-back stove disappeared and found its way

to heat a garage in Middleboro. Its disappearance was the subject of a heated town meeting discussion and it was requested that the missing stove be returned at once.



THE BELL SCHOOL HOUSE AND CLASS OF 1902

First row: Elizabeth Quell, Joseph Quell, Pearl Brooks, Blanche Morse, Clarence DeMaranville and Myrtle Pittsley.

Second row: Archie DeMaranville and Mildred Manton.

Third row: Teacher, Ethel Lowry; Pierce DeMaranville, Elmer Brown, Fred Gifford, Leroy Brooks, George Gifford, Edmund Brooks, and Carrie Manton.

In the report for 1883, the Nećk School was shingled and repaired at the cost of \$185.86.

Zebulon L. Canedy bought the building at auction and then sold it to Clifton W. Nelson. Mr. Nelson purchased the school-house because of historic associations, as his granduncle, Rev. Stephen Nelson, was the first pastor and had also taught school there. The building was moved to a lot on the Nelson farm and made into a dwelling house. The carpenter, while working on it, found a rattan between the partitions.

In January, 1946, John Crowther bought the building and tore it down to use the lumber.

With very few omissions the following is a list of teachers and dates:

- 1853-Mary A. Phillips and Matthew H. Cushing.
- 1854—Fanny P. Williams and A. A. C. Harvey.
- 1855—Priscilla C. Pratt and A. A. C. Harvey.
- 1856—Palmie R. Canedy and Lucy S. Jackson.
- 1857—No record.
- 1858—Palmie R. Canedy.
- 1859—A. A. C. Harvey.
- 1860-61-62-63—School report missing.
- 1864—Eliza P. Shaw and Sarah A. Dunbar.
- 1865-M. W. White and Patience P. Morton.
- 1866—Lizzie M. Howland and Amelia F. Keene.
- 1867—Lillie E. Haskins.
- 1868-Nellie M. Thomas and Patience P. Morton.
- 1869—Patience P. Morton.
- 1870—Mary H. Craps and Abbie T. Barrows.
- 1871—Abbie T. Barrows and Lillie T. Clark.
- 1872-Lillie T. Clark and M. Ella Benson.
- 1873-M. Ella Benson.
- 1874—Alice E. Emery and Irene E. Hathaway.
- 1875—Irene E. Hathaway.
- 1876-Mary B. Pickens.
- 1877—M. Jennie Bump.
- 1878—Amelia F. Keen, Maria Brownell and Anna L. Soule.
- 1879—Nellie W. Winslow and Lottie C. Nichols.
- 1880-Nellie Peirce and Hattie Peirce.
- 1881-Annie L. Soule and Bessie Chase.
- 1882-Edvinna R. Dow and Nellie W. Winslow.
- 1883—Sarah Schwall, Carrie Hatch and Belle E. Lincoln.
- 1884—Sarah Crane and Eudora Lawrence.
- 1885—Record missing.
- 1886—Edith B. Ashley.
- 1887-M. Janette Hervey, Mary R. Burke and Susie W. Snow.
- 1888-Ellen J. Byrne and Emily B. Stefan.
- 1889—Emmilie B. Stefan, Ellen S. Mitchell and Ida J. Hardy.
- 1890-91—Ida J. Hardy.
- 1892—Ida J. Hardy, Lucy A. Lovell, Nellie T. Alden and Laura A. Cun ningham.
- 1893—Laura A. Cunningham and Nettie C. Page.
- 1894—Nettie C. Page, Amy B. Smith, Grace E. Putnam and Nettie C. Page.
- 1895—Grace E. Putnam and Lizzie B. Thomas.
- 1896—Lizzie B. Thomas, Alice R. Roberts and Ethelle E. Westgate.
- 1897-E. P. Westgate and Ada Grover.
- 1898-Ada Grover and Lillian M. Blinn.
- 1899—Lillian M. Blinn and Lillian Haynes.

1900—Lillian Haynes and Alice Clapp.

1901—Alice Clapp and Ethel Lowry.

1902—Ethel Lowry and Faith Garland.

1903—Faith Garland and E. C. Wadleigh.

1904—Edith C. Wadleigh and C. L. Turner.

1905—Charlotte L. Turner and Etta E. Greenleaf.

1906—Etta E. Greenleaf and Mary Otis White.

1907-08—Mary Otis White.

1909—Mary O. White, Helen H. Lane and Elizabeth Benson.

1910—Elizabeth Benson and Zora P. Maxwell.

1911—Zora P. Maxwell, Frances B. Dodge and Flora Keen.

1912—Etta A. Horton.

## McCULLY SCHOOL-No. 6

The McCully School which was District No. 6 was located on Highland Road across the street from Preston Robbins' home. In 1885, Miss Mary G. Shaw was paid twenty dollars for rent of room for school for one term. In another report of the school committee it is found that No. 6 had been taught in the school-house formerly owned by the town, but later was private property.

Teachers whose names are available down through the years have been:

1853—Susan S. Canedy and E. W. Barrows.

1854—Alma J. Shockley and Mary D. Williams.

1855—Mary Baker.

1856—Fanny P. Williams.

1857—The teacher's name is not given. P. C. Dean was the prudential committee.

1859—Averick T. Shockley and E. W. Sampson.

The reports for 1860-61-62-63 are not available.

1864—Marie L. Burt.

1865—Betsie Perkins and Hattie S. Hagen.

1866—Julia B. Burt.

1867—Amey L. Parris.

1868—Jennie A. Richardson.

1869—Jennie A. Richardson.

1870-Mariva G. Paull and M. Ella Benson.

1871—Emma C. Nichols.

1872—Emma C. Nichols and Patience P. Morton.

1873—Sarah A. Gibbs and Lillie T. Westgate.

1874—Amy H. Peirce.

1875-Amy H. Peirce, Cora E. King and Alice B. Southworth.

1876-Maria F. Allen.

1877—Miss P. H. Peirce and A. H. Peirce.

1878—J. N. Peirce.

1879—J. Nellie Peirce.

1880—Lottie C. Nichols and Ella J. Read.

1881—Ella J. Read.

1882—Ella J. Read and Alice V. Winslow.

1883—Alice V. Winslow, Helen C. Allen and Annie M. Wilson.

1884—Mary S. Fisher, P. Hattie Peirce and Annie L. Edwards.

1885—School report missing.

1886—J. Nellie Peirce, Isabel F. Winslow and Chester Ashley.

After 1886 the McCully School was closed. The schoolhouse was purchased by George DeMaranville and moved to his residence.

## CANEDY SCHOOL — No. 7

The Canedy Schoolhouse was located on County Road north of Freetown Street.

Some of the teachers have been:

1853—Mary B. Canedy.

1854-Martha Y. Leach and M. P. Briggs.

1855—Sarah W. Alden and Lavinia W. Harlow.

1856—Phebe H. Macomber and Alden L. Hathaway.

1857—J. W. Canedy was the prudential committee.

1858—Annie M. White and Myra F. Paull.

1859—L. Augusta Walden and Joseph E. Beals.

The reports for 1860-61-62-63 are not available.

1864—Eliza E. Brow and L. Helen Bassett.

1865—Myra S. Rounseville and Helen E. Williams.

1866—Nancy A. Barrows and Sarah B. Winslow.

1867—Martha W. White and Mary F. Paull.

1868—Lizzie B. Hathaway and Myra F. Cudworth.

1869—Myra F. Cudworth and Ida A. Noyes.

1870—Patience P. Morton and Addie R. Lawrence.

1871—Lucia A. Thompson and Minnie E. Chace.

1872—Irene E. Hathaway.

1873—Irene E. Hathaway.

1874—Ella J. Read and Laura S. Delano.

1875—Laura S. Delano, Seth Macomber and Hattie E. French.

1876—Amelia F. Keen.

1877—Amy H. Peirce and M. Jennie Bump.

1878—Amelia F. Keen and Ella M. Pierce.

1879—Amy H. Peirce.

1880—Amy H. Peirce.

1881—Jennie M. Cowen.1882—Lucy A. Warren.1883—P. Hattie Peirce taught the fall term.

At this time there were only four scholars attending this school, therefore the school was discontinued and transportation was provided to School No. 6 which was the McCully. The children were transported for only 50 cents. Some of the residents claimed that the expense was needless and that the children could walk the short distance. For the fall term they walked. Before the winter term commenced a petition was presented asking that the Canedy School be re-opened. A meeting was held December 26, 1883, at the schoolhouse and was largely attended. It was decided to continue to have the children of District No. 7 go to school at the McCully schoolhouse. The parents were dissatisfied and said that their children would neither ride or walk to No. 6, that they wanted the Canedy School re-opened. On December 28 another meeting was held and at last the school was re-opened. 1884—Ella J. Read was teacher.

In 1885 again there was more trouble about moving the school-house. It was decided that if School No. 7 was moved halfway between No. 7 Canedy School and No. 9 which was Beech Woods School, all the children could be accommodated. A committee was appointed to select the lot, set the schoolhouse there, and the vacant schoolhouse was to be sold at public auction.

The fall term was held in the new location, County Road at the head of Kingman Street, on land owned by Jim P. Pierce.

But there was an opposing party, and it was only a short while after the Town Meeting which voted to move the schoolhouse, before another Town Meeting was called and a vote passed to move the schoolhouse back. This was done.

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1886—Amelia F. Keene.
1887—Amelia F. Keene.
1888—Minnie E. White.
1889—Minnie E. White and Bessie E. Chace.
1890—Bessie E. Chace.
1891—Bessie E. Chace.
1892—Minerva E. Dean and Eliza H. Cushing.
1893—Alton W. Reed, Eliza H. Cushing and Susan Howland.
1894—Susan Howland.
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1895—Eloise A. Hafford and Alice P. Cromack.

1896—Alice P. Cormack, Annie L. Goodrow, May E. Dennie (one week) and Maud E. Wing.

1897—Maud E. Wing and Abbie E. Cudworth.

1898—Chloe Macomber and Abbie E. Cudworth.

1899—Abbie E. Cudworth and Ida Magoon.

1900—Ida Magoon and Ada Pierce.

1901-Ada Pierce and Helen A. Whitmore.

1902—Helen A. Whitmore.

1903—Helen Whitmore, M. F. Ryan, E. A. Hafford, E. F. Wagner and Mertie Jenkins.

1904-Mertie Jenkins and Maude E. Brackett.

1905-Maude E. Brackett and Norma I. Baker.

1906—Norma I. Baker.

1907-Norma I. Baker and Mertie Willis.

1908-Mertie Willis, Ida Clapp and Mary E. Parks.

1909—Ida M. Clapp, A. Gertrude C. Daly and Sarah E. Sewall.

At the close of the fall term there were only nine pupils and it was decided to transport them to the Parris Hill School.

In 1912 the Canedy School was re-opened and K. Frances Dunham, Clara W. Eaton, Helen C. Dustin and Alice S. Hawes all taught that year.

1913—Mary E. Walling.

1914—Laura E. Stoddard.

1915—Laura E. Stoddard.

1916 and 1917—Again no school.—

1918—Eva Shannon.

1919—

1920—Mary A. Downey.

1921—Mary A. Downey.

The spring term of 1922 was not completed because of scarlet fever.

1923-

1924—The Canedy School house was burned early in November.

## SEARS SCHOOL — No. 8

The school in District Number 8 seemed to possess the faculty of locomotion, moving from one point in the district to another, thus reversing the usual order of things. Instead of the children going to school, we have the schoolhouse going to the children.

In the report of the school committee for 1875 it says: "Schoolhouse No. 8 (Sears) has been burned the past year and that only a small number of children attended."

In the winter of 1856 school was not kept, due to the fact that there was no money.

The Sears School was on Freetown Street, on the left side about a quarter of a mile beyond the railroad bridge.

In 1857 the teacher's name was not given in the report, but instead a report of the prudential committee was given. E. S. Ashley and J. C. Haskins were on that committee for the Sears School. The report says that school was held for twenty-four weeks at a cost of \$58.47 and that \$18 was spent for the teacher's board for twelve weeks. Some of the teachers who taught at the Sears School are as follows:

1853-54-55-56—Catherine Bishop.

1857—Report of the prudential committee.

1858—Theodora F. Ashley.

1859—Sarah A. Pickens.

1860-61-62-63—Reports are unavailable.

1864—Lucy A. Ashley.

1865-66-67—Fanny H. Howland.

1868—Lizzie G. Winslow.

1869-70—Annie L. Parris.

1871—Amy L. Anthony and A. F. Macomber.

1872—A. F. Macomber.

1873—Emma B. Macomber.

1874—Chattie H. Strobridge and Seth Macomber.

1875—P. Hattie Peirce.

1876—P. Hattie Peirce, Amy H. Peirce and Lizzie C. Edminster.

1877—Lizzie C. Edminster.

1878—Eudora Lawrence. Jennie M. Thomas and Cora J. Pickens.

1879—Alice V. Winslow.

1880—Eliza M. Peirce.

1881—J. Nellie Peirce

1882—Minnie A. Cummings and Chester Ashley.

1883-84—Edgar O. Leach.

1885—Report unavailable.

1886—Alice C. Ryder and Mrs. Hannah J. Harper.

1887—E. M. Chamberlain.

1888—Jennie P. Washburn.

1889—Jennie P. Washburn and Ada D. Anthony.

1890—No report of School No. 8 in the town report.

1891—Ralph H. Anthony.

1892—Jerusha H. DeMaranville.

1893—Alton W. Reed.

# G. HASKINS SCHOOL (The Mystery Schoolhouse) — No. 9

In the report of the school committee for the first year which was 1853, and for the second report, 1854, there was a Number 9 school. It was called the G. Haskins School. In 1853 Sarah E. Evans was the teacher and Miss S. B. Thatcher taught in 1854. No one knows the location of this school. From the district number which was 9, it would seem that it would be between the Strobridge School, which was No. 10, and the Sears School which was No. 8. If so, it would be in the vicinity of Parris Hill. There was a George S. Haskins, the son of Cephas Haskins, who was postmaster for many years. This George Haskins was selectman and assessor for about ten years and he lived in the Haskins neighborhood but that does not seem to connect with this school.

In 1870, Ellen Haskins was paid three dollars for a room in which to keep school, and in 1871, the next year, a Julius C. Haskins was paid three dollars for a room in which to keep school. This Julius Haskins lived in the Beech Woods section of the town, so it could be possible that it was his home.

## THE BEECH WOODS SCHOOL — No. 10

The Beech Woods schoolhouse was located on what is now Peirce Avenue and can be seen today across from the Alton Hoard Place.

Town reports list the following teachers:

1853—Tirza S. Morse and Sarah A. Tinkham.

1854—Miss Ashley.

1855-Mary M. Cushman (summer) and Palmie R. Canedy (winter).

1856—Clementine L. Ashley.

1857—C. B. Parris, on the prudential committee.

1858—Jane A. Canedy.

1859-Sophia A. Townsend (summer) and Josephine P. Atkinson (winter).

Beech Woods School, which until this time had been District No. 10, was changed to District 9. In 1864 and 1865 in the same Town report the teacher at Precinct was Hannah T. Montgomery; but Hannah T. Montgomery was also listed as the

teacher in District No. 9, Beech Woods, for both summer and winter. As the schoolhouses and school districts were changed so many times, it would be very easy to make a mistake in the records.

1865-66—Lucy F. Morse.

1866-67—H. T. Montgomery.

1867-68—Mary F. Paull (winter) and Amey L. Parris (summer).

1869—No report.

1870—Lizzie B. Hathaway.

1871-72—H. T. Davis (summer) and Samuel H. Richmond (winter).

1872-73—Ellen H. Akin and Hannah N. Dillingham.

1873-74—M. W. M. Vaughan and George R. Randall.

1874-75—Alice C. Flanders and Seth Macomber.

1876—Mary T. Pierce, Seth Macomber, Miss E. R. Bliss and Joseph F. Donham.

17.

1877-78—Frank Copeland and Mary L. Burt.

1878-79—Lizzie C. Edminster.

1879-80—Frank Copeland.

1881—Lizzie C. Edminster, spring; Annie F. Richmond, fall, and Leavitt C. Caswell, winter.

1882—Mary A. Strange, summer; Ida E. Gardner, summer, and Bessie Chase, winter.

1883—

1884-Nellie W. Winslow, summer, and Belle F. Whitaker, winter.

1885—Chester Ashley and Annie L. Soule.

1886—Addie W. French and Alice C. Ryder.

It was about this time that the Canedy schoolhouse was moved north on County Street, opposite Kingman Street, and the Beech Woods School was sold. The parents from the Beech Woods District refused to let their children attend the Canedy School at its new location. In 1886 and 1887, there being no schoolhouse belonging to the town within the limits of School District No. 9, a room was hired in the private home of Moses Parris on County Street. Mr. Parris was grandfather of Mrs. Eliza Chase and Mrs. Olive C. B. Washburn. School was kept in the front room of Mrs. Chase's home on Parris Hill. The next year, 1888, the Montgomery Schoolhouse was moved to School Street and the school was called the Parris Hill School. Mary S. Fisher was the teacher in 1886 and 1887, the year that school was taught in the private home.

## PARRIS HILL SCHOOL

The Montgomery schoolhouse had been moved to the short street running from County Road to Peirce Avenue, afterwards called School Street. About 1888 this school, the Parris Hill School, was opened.

The list of teachers follows:

1888-90-Mary S. Fisher.

1891-1892-Mary S. Fisher and Alton W. Reed.

1893-94-95—Alton W. Reed.

1896—Virtue Bowerman, Ethel Cannon and Alton W. Reed.

1897—Virtue Bowerman and Lillian M. Blinn.

1898—Lillian M. Blinn and Susie M. Allen.

1899-00-01—Susie M. Allen.

1901-02—Pamela Caswell.

In the fall of 1902 there were 35 pupils at the Parris Hill School, while only 20 seats were available. Some of the children were sent to Canedy School and the dressing room was remodeled to seat some of the pupils.

1903—Eunice Pierce.

1904—Eunice Pierce and Alice E. Howe.

1905—Alice E. Howe.

1906—Alice E. Howe and Mary A. Nannery.

1907-Mary A. Nannery, Mrs. John Belden and Nellie F. McAuliffe.

1908—Nellie F. McAuliffe.

1909—Nellie F. McAuliffe and A. Gertrude Daley.

1910—A. Gertrude Daley.

1911—P. J. Almira Forbes and Eunice R. Pierce.

1912-13-14-15-16-17—Eunice R. Pierce.

1918-19-20-Mildred C. Tinkham.

1921—Bertha Hammond.

1922—Amy P. Staples and Bertha Hammond.

1923—Bertha Hammond and Mildred Tinkham Lang.

1924—Mildred Tinkham Lang.

It was at this time, 1924, that the South Lakeville School was opened.

# STROBRIDGE OR MONTGOMERY SCHOOL - No. 11

At first the Strobridge School was District No. 11 and was located on Kingman Street at the head of Montgomery Street. Later the district was changed from 11 to 10. In 1879 or 1880

the Strobridge Schoolhouse was moved to Montgomery Street, at the head of Hill Street. In 1853 Matilda P. Briggs was the teacher. In 1854 and 1855 no school was in session at the Strobridge School. In 1856, Martha L. Hathaway taught in the summer and Susan C. Strobridge taught the winter term. In 1857 Benjamin H. Strobridge was the prudential committee. In 1858, Myra F. Paull taught the summer term and there was no school that winter. Other teachers have been:

1859—C. Angeline Williams and Martha E. L. Bosquet.

1864—Hannah T. Montgomery and L. Frank Montgomery.

1865—Sarah B. Winslow and Louisa Montgomery.

1866—Sarah B. Winslow.

1867—The prudential committee for that district was John Williams. Mrs. Benjamin Strobridge was paid three dollars for the use of a room for school. Charity H. Strobridge and Nellie C. Strobridge were neither absent nor tardy during the winter term. (School was kept in their own home.)

1868-Mattie L. Hathaway.

1869—Addie R. Lawrence.

1870-71—Eudora M. Allen.

1872—Eudora M. Allen and Addie R. Lawrence.

1873—Addie R. Lawrence and Mary E. Evans.

1874—Hattie A. Harris and Mary E. Evans.

1875—Idella M. Stephens and Irene E. Hathaway.

1876-77—Ella M. Pierce.

1878—Frank Copeland and Eliza M. Pierce.

1879—Ella M. Pierce,

1880—Annie F. Richmond taught the fall term.

Records show that at this time the Strobridge School, which had been moved to Montgomery Street and was now called the Montgomery School, was discontinued. About 1888 the Montgomery schoolhouse was moved to Parris Hill and became the Parris Hill School.

# THE PRECINCT SCHOOL — No. 12

The Precinct School was located on Precinct Street between the church and the old store of Frank B. Williams. In 1853 when Lakeville was separated from Middleboro, the district number was 12, but in 1855 it was changed to No. 10, and the next year changed again to No. 11. In 1880 School No. 10, which was the

Strobridge School, and No. 11 were united. The Precinct school-house was sold for \$45. While the Strobridge schoolhouse was being moved to its new location, the scholars from the Precinct School (which at that time were very few) were to attend the Haskins No. 2 until the Strobridge School was ready.



Precinct School

After sixteen years (1896), the Washburn School No. 4 was moved to Precinct and school re-opened under District No. 4. In the fall of 1912 the pupils from Precinct School came to the new Assawompsett School.

Some of the teachers have been:

1853—Adeline V. Wood and Charlotte Barstow.

1854—A. A. King for the summer and B. L. Wilder for the winter.

1855—Sarah B. Thatcher and Samuel Miller, Jr.

1856—Harriet S. Monroe and Myra F. Paull.

1857—The prudential committee was Martin L. Caswell but the name of the teacher is not given.

1858-Mary E. Mason and Rhoda Miller.

1859—S. K. L. Bosquet, summer and winter.

1864—Hannah T. Montgomery and J. Frank Montgomery.

1865—Sarah B. Winslow and Louisa Montgomery.

1866—Rhoda Miller.

1867—Rhoda Miller and Mary A. Montgomery.

1868-Mattie L. Hathaway and Cordie E. Perkins.

1869—Julia M. Tinkham and Ida G. Decker.

1870—Ida G. Decker and Hattie A. Barrows.

1871—Lizzie G. Winslow and Hattie A. Barrows.

1872—Lizzie G. Winslow and Ellen H. Akin.

1873—Ellen H. Akin and Josephine R. Randall.

1874—Abbie H. Harris and P. Hattie Peirce.

1875—Alice S. Church, Abbie L. Bassett and Alice Shepard.

1876—Mary T. Pierce and Nellie F. Lovell.

1877—Nellie F. Lovell and Mary L. Burt.

1878—Mary L. Burt and Amelia F. Keen.

1879—Hattie S. Thatcher.

At this time the school was closed and sold.

In 1896 the Precinct school was re-opened in the Washburn schoolhouse which had been moved to Precinct; the teachers being Delia R. Kingman and Louise H. Sampson.

1897—Louise H. Sampson.

1898—Louise H. Sampson and Fannie McDonald.

1899—Fannie McDonald.

1900—Fannie McDonald.

1901—Fannie McDonald, E. F. Dunham and Grace E. Wood.

1902—Grace E. Wood and E. Frances Dunham.

1903-04—Frances Dunham.

1905—Frances Dunham and Lydia B. Denham.

1906—Lydia Denham and Edith C. Holland.

Until 1912 when the scholars went to Assawompsett School, Edith C. Holland continued to be the teacher.

## TOWN HOUSE SCHOOL

In November, 1908, a primary school was opened in the Town House to accommodate the first three grades from Upper Corners and the Neck Schools. There were 23 pupils the first year. As the school was temporary, and the Town House used for other purposes, no desks were put in, but low tables and chairs were used.

The first teacher was Flora Keene. In 1909 Flora Keene and Edith G. Jenkins were teachers. Edith G. Jenkins taught again in 1910. In 1911 Edith G. Jenkins and Jessie L. Paine were the teachers. In 1912 Jessie L. Paine taught until June and in the fall the Assawompsett School was opened.

## ASSAWOMPSETT SCHOOL

In 1912 the Assawompsett schoolhouse was built at a cost of \$10,500. The building had four class rooms, a committee room and a teachers' room. The building committee included Henry



L. Pember, Alton T. Hoard and Zebulon L. Canedy. The building of this up-to-date schoolhouse eliminated nearly all the district schools.

In 1913 a number of pictures were given to the Assawompsett School by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney T. Nelson, Mrs. Arthur Rotch, Mrs. Thomas Beaton, Mrs. Fred Shockley, Mrs. Myra A. Hammond, Mrs. Cornelia Cook of New Bedford, Mrs. W. L. Wright of Brockton and Mrs. Annie

P. Kelly. The pupils and teachers gave two pictures. A clock for the front of the building was given by Mrs. Rhoda M. Peirce. A large American flag of the Spanish American War era was presented by the family of the late E. T. Pierce Jenks. The school savings bank was started in November of 1912 under the auspices of the Lakeville members of the Cabot Club.

The teachers at Assawompsett School have been:

- 1912-Elizabeth H. Benson, Esther M. Barnes and Edith L. Robinson.
- 1913—E. H. Benson, E. L. Robinson and Gladys M. Harris.
- 1914—E. H. Benson, E. L. Robinson, Betty A. Burkhead and Sadie Feathstone.
- 1915-E. H. Benson, M. Alma Philips, Sarah Thurston and Myrta Chadwick.
- 1916-17—E. H. Benson, M. A. Philips, S. Thurston and L. Stoddard.
- 1918—E. H. Benson, M. A. Philips, Anne McFarlin, Hilda Booth and Emily Daniels.
- 1919—E. H. Benson, A. McFarlin, H. Booth and E. Daniels.
- 1920—E. H. Benson, A. McFarlin, Marie Quelle, Madeleine Burgess and Margaret Bowen.
- 1921—E. H. Benson, A. McFarlin, Marie Quelle Begley, Anne Andrews and M. A. Sampson.
- 1922—A. Andrews, Mildred Holloway, M. A. Sampson, Julia McGinness and M. Jeanette Tobey.
- 1923-24—A. Andrews, M. Holloway, M. A. Sampson, J. McGinness and M. J. Tobev.

1925-26-27-28-29-30-31—A. Andrews, principal; M. A. Sampson, J. McGinness and M. J. Tobey.

1932-33-34—A. Andrews, M. A. Sampson, M. J. Tobey and Katherine Caswell.

1935-36-37—A. Andrews, M. A. Sampson, M. J. Tobey and Leona M. LeDoux.

1938—A. Andrews, M. A. Sampson, K. M. Caswell and Wilhelmina B. Vinal.

1939-40-41-42-43-44-45—A. Andrews, M. A. Sampson and Mearl A. Tribou.

1946-47-48-49—Benjamin J. Bump, principal; A. Andrews, M. A. Sampson and Mearl A. Tribou.

1950—Benjamin J. Bump, principal; A. Andrews, M. A. Sampson, Mearl A. Tribou and Madeleine Wood.

1951—Benjamin J. Bump, principal; A. Andrews, M. A. Sampson, M. A. Tribou, Madeleine Wood and Robert Balentine.

1952—Joseph C. Kunces, principal; A. Andrews, M. A. Sampson, M. A. Tribou, Madeleine Wood, Robert Balentine and Gladys E. Snow.

#### MUSIC SUPERVISORS

1934-48—Wirt B. Phillips.

1940-41—Luther Churchill (guidance and training for teachers).

1941-42—Frederick Winters.

1942 (6 months)—Mary A. Doherty.

1942-43—Olive M. Spaniol.

1943-44—Antoinette Garrett.

1944-46—Marion Hartley.

1951 to present time — Eunice Sherman.

#### ART SUPERVISORS

1928-29—W. Loring Adams, art supervisor.

1942-44—Stella Morrison, art supervisor and instructor of sewing and manual arts.

1947 to present time—Stella Morrison.

## MANUAL ARTS

Anne Andrews and Benjamin J. Bump began in 1946 to instruct girls and boys in the upper grades in sewing and shop. In 1951 two special subject teachers were appointed: Gertrude Colvin for sewing classes and Malcolm DeMoranville for instruction in general woodworking.

## NORTH LAKEVILLE SCHOOL

At the annual Town Meeting held in March 1915, it was voted to erect a new schoolbuilding at North Lakeville to take the place of the old Miller Schoolhouse. A two-room building was built,



North Lakeville School

each room accommodating forty pupils. The members of the building committee were Alton T. Hoard, Sidney T. Nelson and Myra A. Hammond. The town appropriated \$5000 and \$110 was received from the sale of the Miller schoolhouse. The teachers have been:

1915-Effie D. W. Tucker.

1916—Effie D. W. Tucker and Helen Holmes.

1917-18-19—Pearl M. Comstock and Bernice M. Reed.

1920-21—Myra Andrews and Catherine Crowell.

1922-23-24-25-Myra Andrews.

1926-Myra Andrews, Wilhelmina B. Vinal and Dorothy Stiles.

1927-W. B. Vinal and Madeleine Duncklee.

1928-29--30-31-32-W. B. Vinal and M. A. Tribou.

1933-34-35-36-37—W. B. Vinal and Katherine Caswell. 1938-39-40-41—M. Jeanette Tobey and Leona M. Shea. 1942—M. J. Tobey, Mary Hildreth and Alice E. Norris. 1943—M. J. Tobey, Marie A. Begley and Alice E. Norris. 1944-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52—M. J. Tobey and M. A. Begley

### SOUTH LAKEVILLE SCHOOL

At the 1925 annual Town Meeting held March 2, it was voted to appropriate \$12,000 for a schoolhouse and lot in the western part of the town to take the place of the Canedy School. The building committee consisted of Leavitt C. Caswell, George Northcott, Leslie H. Norton, Edwin A. Staples and N. Merrill Sampson.



South Lakeville School

## The teachers are as follows:

1926—Annie D. Lee and Mabel R. Woodward.

1927—Annie D. Lee, Mabel R. Woodward and Katherine Caswell.

1928-29-30-31—Katherine Caswell and Mabel R. Woodward.

1932-33—Madeleine P. Wood.

1934-35-36-37-38—Madeleine P. Wood and Mearl A. Tribou.

1939-40-41-42-43-44-45-46—Wilhelmina B. Vinal and Madeleine P. Wood.

1947-48-49-50-Madeleine P. Wood and Gladys E. Snow.

1951—Gladys E. Snow and Miriam E. Edwards.

1952-Miriam E. Edwards and Alice E. Norris.

# THE NEW ADDITION TO ASSAWOMPSETT SCHOOL

In the 1928 Town report, Arthur B. Webber, then superintendent of schools, pointed out the crowded conditions at Assawompsett School and recommended building an addition. In



1930 his report stated, "Despite the unwillingness of the town to consider an addition to the Assawompsett School, it would seem wise to renew the plea."

In 1932 a School Investigation Committee was appointed consisting of Henry L. Pember, Joseph C. Turner, Ed-

ward E. Langshaw, Frank T. Orrall and Leslie H. Norton. They did not recommend an addition at that time.

It was only a short time after George R. Austin was selected to the position of superintendent of schools that he, likewise, recommended additional class rooms.

In 1945, a committee was appointed for the purpose of securing plans and specifications to enlarge and renovate the Assawompsett School. The committee included Ralph W. Baker (who later was chosen chairman by the committee), Alice E. Norris, W. Hollis Blackburn, Henry L. Pember, Wallace C. Wilkie, Chester Ashley, William J. Begley, Albert H. Heineck, Anne L. Washburn, Leslie H. Norton and Wallace E. Washburn.

Mr. Austin acted as executive officer to the committee that met in formal session twenty-one times and with the members gave numerous additional hours in conferences, inspection trips, etc., while the work was in process.

It was at a special Town Meeting that \$170,000 was appropriated for the construction of the addition to the Assawompsett School. This meeting was held March 28, 1949. It was called

to order at the Town Hall, but, because about fifty voters were outside and could not get into the Town Hall, it was voted to adjourn and reconvene at the Precinct Church. The votes were collected in an old tea-pot, therefore this has been referred to as the "tea-pot election". Work was begun on the building at the end of August 1949.

In June the new addition to the Assawompsett School was used for the first time, the event being the graduation of the Class of 1950. In the fall of 1950 the school was opened for regular classes.

The new addition includes two classrooms, a room for the combined purposes of library, domestic science and lunch-room, a kitchen, a service room on the lower floor, an all-purpose room which serves for general gymnasium and for auditorium activities, indoor toilets and a modern heating plant.

## THE LAKEVILLE PARENT - TEACHER ASSOCIATION

In 1937, the Lakeville P.-T.A. was organized. Since that time it has been most active and has successfully brought parents and teachers together to work along constructive lines for the benefit of the schools. Citizens from all parts of the town have become better acquainted with one another by attending P.-T.A. meetings.

Members worked hard for the new addition to Assawompsett School. For this they helped with cash donations toward necessary equipment for the cafeteria and auditorium.

Many worthwhile projects have had P.-T. A. assistance or sponsorship, including: T. B. X-ray, tonsil and well-child clinics; hot soup for lunch at North and South Lakeville schools; teenage recreation; books, records and pictures for all the schools; the milk program, and a canvass for a record player and amplifier.

The presidents were as follows:

1937-39—Mrs. Francis Baker
1945-47—Mrs. Leroy Washburn
1939-41—Edward J. Shea
1947-48—Mrs. Albert Heineck
1941-42—Mrs. Charles Whitney
1948-50—Mrs. Harold Peck
1942-43—David C. McSweeney
1950-51—Charles Colvin
1943-45—Mrs. Clarence Staples
1951-....—Mrs. Edmund Vera

## CHAPTER IX

## HOUSES

## THE WARD HOUSE



HE old Ward House of Lakeville was one of the first built in this region, but the exact date of its erection cannot be determined. It is located on the corner of Crooked Lane and Stetson Street.



Ward House

The original house, which forms the east part of the building as it now stands, was small and was made of oak planks spiked onto the sills and beams, that it might serve as a garrison-house for protection against the Indians.

The Plymouth County records show that Robert Sproat of Scituate, in 1711, conveyed part of his estate to his son James Sproat. The following year, 1712, we find him a native of

Middleboro. A record is preserved, of a deed, conveying the other portion of his Scituate estate to his son, Ebenezer. James Sproat must have inherited his father's property in Middleboro, Lakeville at that time being a part of Middleboro.

By a deed conveyance dated March 6, 1737, he gave this property in the West Precinct of Middleboro, to his son Robert Sproat. In 1778 Robert Sproat conveyed by deed this same property to his son, Zebidee Sproat, a man of more than ordinary taste for those times. Zebidee Sproat disposed of this property to William and Ebenezer Nelson who, in 1806, sold the same to General Ephraim Ward.

While the property was in possession of Zebidee Sproat, he planted trees around the house and laid out a terraced garden with choice plants and shrubs. He also made additions to the original house, one of which is of considerable historical interest. Being an ardent opposer of King George, he was most active in Revolutionary work, and engaged with others in sacking the house of Judge Oliver, Justice of the Colony of Massachusetts in Nemasket. The Oliver house was well built, having been brought framed from England.

Mr. Sproat, before the house was burned, took off some of its inside doors, which he carried home and used for the doors, panels and ceilings of his new rooms. Seventeen doors are thus introduced into two bed-chambers and an upper entry-way. Tradition has it that, for his various misdemeanors against his family and the public welfare, Mr. Sproat was later in life drummed out of town by his indignant fellow-citizens and that the daughter-in-law of Judge Oliver joined vigorously in the music to which he was forced to march. An interesting story of her wrongs was written by his wife, injured Hannah Sproat and published by her, as a broadside ballad, to be sung to a mournful tune and sold for five pence.

It is a tradition of the house, that a picture of King George was on a panel brought from Nemasket and inserted over the fireplace of the east chamber, and that Mr. Sproat had it painted over, substituting for the portrait of his king, two stiff and con-

#### **HOUSES**

ventional vases of flowers. The walls of this room and also the ceilings are of wood; the walls painted to represent heavy curtained drapery trimmed with fringe and ornamented with tassels.

The house has grown with each generation that has occupied it. Additions have been made by General Ward, by his daughter, Mrs. Priscilla W. Stetson, and by her son, Sprague S. Stetson.

It was in 1937 that Arthur Benson of Middleboro bought the historical house and a number of acres of land. He at that time remodeled the house, yet keeping the old paneling with the antique lines.

It was in this old house, after the Revolution, that a skeleton of an Indian was found. It was thought that the Indian had hidden in the closet to escape being captured and was unable to open the door later.

## THE CUDWORTH HOUSE

There is no doubt that the construction of the old Cudworth house on Bedford Street covers two periods. The earlier part of the dwelling is that which now consists of the kitchen, with



Cudworth House

its original old Dutch oven, the dining room with its shallow fire place, and the two rooms above these. The hand hewn beams with their wooden pegs, the extremely wide pine wall boards and hand-forged floor nails, all indicate the earlier construction. This is, no doubt, the original house, which historians tell us was begun by Samuel Nelson, finished by his son, William, and was sold to General Ephraim Ward in 1806.

The later period of construction represents the type of Federal houses, which gained popularity during the years 1800 through 1820. The fanlight over the front entrance, the twin chimneys, making possible a fire place in each room up stairs and down, are characteristic of houses built during this period. Simplicity, symmetry and dignity are also features of a house of this type. Its simplicity gives it charm; its symmetry gives it an interior arrangement that is both practical and adaptable for comfortable living. The over-all result is dignity. This Federal structure dates back to Elisha Cudworth in the early nineteenth century.

Despite its lack of occupancy, the house has maintained a quiet dignity through the years and it was this, in addition to its pleasant location, that attracted its present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Draghetti. Upon its purchase, they have, from the first, been governed by one guiding principle, to effect no alterations or improvements that would detract from its original charm.

# THE MAJOR PETER HOAR HOUSE

The old house on Main Street, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon MacNeill, was the home of Major Peter Hoar years ago. It is a fine sample of the Colonial mansions of those old days. It now belongs to John G. Paun. His grandfather, John Paun, a candle-maker from New Bedford, purchased it from a Mr. Chase in 1854.

The front hall, the bannisters, and the painting on the stairs are exactly like those which were in the Sproat house at Muttock.

#### **HOUSES**

The old mantel pieces and the mouldings in the Peter Hoar house are especially beautiful, and Mr. Paun has been besieged by would-be purchasers of these articles. Feeling that they are in keeping with the dignity and beauty of the house, he has refused any price offered for them.



Peter Hoar House

The following description is taken from Ebenezer W. Peirce's book "The Peirce Family": "Major Hoar planted the noble elm that now, after the lapse of more than a century, like a thing of beauty as it is, remains a constant joy; still casting its cooling shade over the door-way in summer, it stands in stately grandeur, an enduring monument of the hand that planted it, a fitting emblem of the symmetry and beauty, durability and strength, of those moral and political institutions of our land . . . "

### THE SAMPSON HOMESTEAD

Just prior to 1800 one of the finer old homes of Lakeville, then Middleboro, was completed. It is located on the northerly side of Main Street, just a few hundred feet east of the Town Hall and Library. The house, known as the Sampson Homestead, was built with Revolutionary money by Dr. John Sampson.



Sampson House

Dr. Sampson was a practicing physician before and during the Revolution. His son Francis, better known as Frank, later brought his bride there to make their home. Frank was a farmer by occupation. Later his eldest daughter, Bertha (Mrs. William Hadlock), brought fruit trees and bushes to the property. At that time it was said that all varieties of fruits known were to be had from these trees and bushes. Today, some sixty years later, a few of the trees are still bearing fruit.

After the death of Frank Sampson his wife continued to live in the homestead with her daughter, Mabel, and son-in-law, George Northcott. Mrs. Sampson was over ninety years of age when she passed away in 1930.

#### HOUSES

Mr. and Mrs. Northcott continued to live in the homestead until his passing in 1951. In April of that year the homestead was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander J. Draghetti of Middleboro. Mrs. Draghetti is a granddaughter of the late Fred Shockley who was a town official for many years.

For one year the home has been in the process of renovation and restoration. Around a central chimney are six fireplaces, three on the first floor, one with dutch oven, and three on the second floor. The woodwork around these fireplaces for the most part is rather fancy. Besides these two floors, there is a cellar of full dimensions and an attic. The huge oaken beams are put together with wooden pegs throughout. Of interest are hand wrought H and L hinges, latches and nails. Two of the outside doors are of double thickness, paneled on the outside and sheathed on the inside and hung by two huge strap hinges. The original knocker and lock are still on the front door. The ceilings are low — even a person of medium height can touch some of them while standing on the floor. One of the fireplace closets is interesting because it follows the chimney back, the lower shelf being about six inches in depth and the top shelf about twelve inches.

Today the Sampson Homestead is a seven-room house, plus two bathrooms and a pantry, with modern conveniences of running water, oil heat, plumbing and electricity — a modern home with the flavor of the past.

## THE DOGGETT HOUSE

The Doggett house stood near the entrance to the Lakeville State Sanatorium on Main Street. This house was built in 1742 by Simeon Doggett, who came from Marshfield. In 1925, when some changes were being made at the Sanatorium, this old Doggett place, one of our ancient landmarks, was demolished.



Doggett House

Simeon Doggett was generally known as the Tory farmer, and he remained loyal to the Crown all through the Revolution. He was imprisoned in New Bedford, with Lemuel Ransome. Mr. Ransome lived a little farther west on the Rhode Island Road, on what later became known as the Clark-Bump place. Mr. Doggett was a staunch Episcopalian and he thought it wrong for the Colonies to rebel against the mother country. He did not try to conceal this fact. Although no treasonable acts were ever proved against them, he and Mr. Ransome were for a time imprisoned in the New Bedford jail. They were finally released under the condition that they would never leave their farms without permission. It is said, that while under the injunction of the town, they obeyed it carefully, but availed themselves of the privilege of walking daily to the bounds of their adjoining

#### HOUSES

farms, and discussing the turbulent state of the times and of the King they loved so well. After the war, they regained the esteem of their fellow citizens.

Mr. Ransome was a man who never said anything about one's character. He was known as the honest farmer. One season there was a great frost which spoiled all the crops, the country 'round, except those of Mr. Ransome. Speculators came to him and offered very high prices for his corn, but he would not sell. He said that the corn belonged to the poor men of the town and that they should have it, at the ordinary price.

Mr. Doggett was the father of Rev. Simeon Doggett, a clergy-man of reputation, at one time principal of the Taunton Academy. His daughter, Abigail, married Judge Weston. He was the grandfather of Rev. Thomas Doggett and of William E. Doggett, an eminent business man of Chicago.

## THE STEPHEN HINDS HOUSE

This old familiar landmark is located on Highland Road. It was known for years as the Hinds place. This picture was taken in the early part of the century. In the picture are Grandpa and Grandma Hinds, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Hinds and children, Ella and James, and an aunt and cousin.



Stephen Hinds House

## THE WASHBURN HOUSE

The Washburn House was built in 1803 at the junction of Taunton and Middleboro and New Bedford and Boston roads, near the present Lakeville Town House, facing the Middleboro road. It was built by James Washburn, who was the first postmaster of Middleboro, that part called West Precinct, and before that, Assawompsett post-office. Until the death of the last of the family in 1891, it was known as the Washburn House. Two generations of Washburns had lived in an earlier house built nearer the Taunton road now Precinct Street.



King Philip Tavern — Washburn House

Three large buttonwood trees, the home of many woodpeckers, stood in front of the house. On the left side were fine stately Lombardy poplars, commonly called the popple trees. In back of the house down by the spring — which afterwards was known as the King Philip Spring — were some butter-nut trees.

After the death of Francis Washburn the house was sold, and for a few years it was used as a summer boarding house, under the name of King Philip's Tavern. The burning of the house

in April 1918, removed a landmark from the cross roads, which was one of the finest examples of the dignified architecture of its period.

The house was furnished in 1804, and the parlor remained the same until the house was sold, when the furniture was divided among the heirs. The various articles now grace living rooms from Massachusetts to California.

A brass knocker, which resounded through the house with startling effect, was on the green front door. When the summons was answered and the door was opened, one stepped into the large hall, which ran through the entire length of the house, and was called the thoroughfare. The upper hall was known as the thoroughfare chamber.

The door at the right of the entrance opened into the parlor, a room fourteen feet square, very high in the walls with a cornice twelve or fourteen inches deep, handsomely carved. This cornice matched the wainscoting, which was three feet high with carved festoons and rope molding. The walls were covered with a light paper, and on the floor was a bright colored, striped yarn carpet with a rug of all colors before the fireplace.

In the corner at the right, as one entered the room, stood the old-fashioned lolling chair with its straight back and hard seat, covered with dark woolen moreen. A tidy, about a yard in length, knit of white cotton, covered the back. Behind the chair, leaning against the wall, stood a large tray or waiter as it was called, painted black with flowers around the edge.

The room had two front windows shaded with curtains of some kind of thin oilcloth, which had painted on the side next to the window, a landscape with trees and houses. There were no fixtures for rolling up the curtains. They were pasted or sewed over a stick fastened to the casing, and were rolled up from the bottom and tied with drab cord, which had tassels about six inches long at each window. Close against the casing stood two chairs facing each other. These chairs were black with white rush seats, the back slats ornamented with leaves outlined in gold leaf. Between the windows was a mahogany

card table with a leaf that could be either raised or folded down when the full square was not needed. The table was covered with a green and white cloth woven in round figures. On it were several books, such as the New Testament, A Concordance, Watts Hymns, The Language of Flowers, Daily Food and Memories of Harriet Newell. Above the table hung a gilt-framed looking glass with a picture at the top representing a young woman clad in a green and red dress out in a gale of wind.

In the next corner, stood a small square table with beautifully carved legs and two drawers with brass pulls which was called the work table. On it stood the great, leather-covered family Bible, in which were recorded births, marriages and deaths of the Washburn family, in three generations. There were a great many births and a great many deaths but very few marriages. However, most of those who did marry had large families.

At the side of the room opposite the door stood a hair-cloth sofa with lions feet and with a gilt beading between the hair-cloth and the woodwork. It had no springs and no pillows and was as hard as a wooden settee. At each end stood another of the black-framed, white-seated chairs. Back of the sofa was a window partly shaded by cinnamon rose bushes and purple lilacs. This window looked out on a flower garden, where grew a profusion of hollyhocks — bouncing Bet — purple Columbine — none so pretties — striped grass — red peonies and a large bush which they called meloncholy bliss. Bees kept the children from picking the flowers.

At the back of the room was the fireplace in which was a pair of handsome brass andirons. The mantel was made by hand, with carved festoons and rope molding to match the other woodwork in the room. At each side of the fireplace was a jamb hook, which held the brass-handled shovel and tongs, a little long-handled brush and the bellows.

On the mantel stood two glass oil lamps, two brass candlesticks, a pair of snuffers in a red tray and an image of a deer and a whalebone box about six inches long, with a ship carved on the front. It contained among other things a few pieces of

ising glass, a little book with some remnants of gold-leaf and a pen-knife.

At the left of the fireplace was a china closet where the best dishes and the shining pewter tea-pot were kept.

On the other side of the parlor stood a cherry table, at each end of which was a red-flag seat rocking chair; a wooden rocker, of Windsor type, stood before the fireplace.

It was in this parlor that Governor John A. Andrew and his staff were entertained in the time of the Civil War. In the year 1862, the Governor and his staff came out to view the several regiments of soldiers then encamped at Camp Joe Hooker. When the official party was ready to leave for the station it was found that the train would not leave for an hour and a half and the County Commissioner, who was acting as host, thought the visitors would need some refreshments. He started immediately for Louisa Washburn's house, and rushing in he said excitedly, "Miss Washburn, can you give the Governor and staff something to eat and have it ready in half an hour?" She told him that she could. Louisa Washburn was always prepared.

The big waiter was brought out from behind the lolling chair, the best china and the pewter tea-pot were taken out and she served tea and coffee, fruit cake and pound cake to six men with only a half hour's notice. This was a sample of the gracious hospitality which was the chief glory of our grandmothers.

# THE ELKANAH LEONARD HOUSE

This house was built by Elkanah Leonard in the Tack Factory neighborhood over two hundred years ago. He was a descendant of James and Henry Leonard of Raynham. They were recognized as the first successful iron founders in the United States. Elkanah Leonard was a lawyer and was popular with both the whites and the Indians. He also became prominent in the town in a business way, conducting an iron foundry and a large store.



Elkanah Leonard House

Mrs. Harriett Holloway, who passed away in 1908, was a direct descendant in the sixth generation. She was born in the historic homestead on November 2, 1823. After her death, the property fell to the youngest son, George Holloway. Much sorrow was felt when this house, which had been used by the white people as a rendezvous from the Indians, was destroyed by fire on December 23, 1922.

## THE MINISTERIAL FARM

Copies of old deeds show that some of this land was purchased in 1759 from Isaiah Booth and some from Elder Ebenezer Hinds. William Canedy gave a square acre to the Second Baptist Church



Dennis Tinkham Farm — Ministerial Farm

and Society. This was the 71st lot, in the Second Alotment, in the purchase called the Sixteen Shilling Purchase. A church was built but never used. After the disbanding of the society a dwelling house was built but later destroyed by fire. The second house was built in 1845. This was the home of Dennis Tinkham for many years. This picture was taken in 1896. The house faces directly north and is said to have been raised by the North Star. It is now the summer home of Mrs. Elizabeth Macomber and Mrs. Susie Johnson, granddaughters of Mr. Tinkham, and is located on County Street, south of the present South Lakeville school.

# THE JOHN HIRAM NELSON HOMESTEAD

This old landmark, the home of the Misses Hannah and May Nelson, was destroyed by fire July 14, 1932. The sisters were not at home at the time. When the fire was discovered, it had gained so much headway that the firemen were unable to save the house. Their attention was then turned to saving the many antiques, consisting of furniture, chinaware and clothing. This included the wedding dress of Mrs. Mary Dean Williams Nelson.



John H. Nelson Home

The homestead was built by Cyrus Nelson and occupied by his son, John H. Nelson, for eighty-three years. It stood, for one hundred and fifty years, on the Old Road from Lakeville Town House to Middleboro.

This fine structure, nestled among the old fashioned flowers that the Misses Nelson loved so well, attracted much attention from those who passed by.

# THE HOUSE OF SEVEN CHIMNEYS

This beautiful old house was located on Pickens Street at the corner of Hill Street. It had seven chimneys and was referred to as the House of Seven Chimneys by the hunters in the olden days. Several hunters would start from different places and would designate the corner by the House of Seven Chimneys as the meeting place, after the hunt was over.



House of Seven Chimneys

This house was also known as the Ben Pickens House, as Benjamin Pickens lived in it all alone for many years. It was on February 8, 1920, that the house was completely destroyed by fire. Mr. Pickens was burned to death in the house.

## THE COLONEL JOHN NELSON HOUSE

This old landmark has been torn down and the lumber taken down on Cape Cod to be used to build a house of that period.

This house was built by Colonel Nelson in 1794. It was located on Main Street, opposite the Assawompsett School.



Colonel John Nelson House

Colonel John Nelson, son of Thomas Nelson, was both a major and colonel in the Revolutionary War.

With its painted, inside walls, this fine old house was occupied by Nelson descendants for many years.

In 1912, Harry Smith owned it and then the piazza was added and this picture taken.

## THE ELEAZER RICHMOND HOUSE

The Eleazer Richmond House is located on Taunton Road, in North Lakeville. It is said to have been built in 1772. Eleazer Richmond bought the place from Isaiah Richmond. This place seems to have been in this same family for a great many years, for before Isaiah it was owned by Benjamin, and before him by Joseph Richmond.



Eleazer Richmond House

James Orrall, Frank Orrall's father, purchased the estate from the Richmond heirs in 1885.

# THE OLD JOHN PEIRCE HOUSE

This picture of one of the Peirce homes was taken in 1885. The house was then nearly two hundred years old and stood across from the Alton Hoard Place on Beechwoods Road, which is now Peirce Avenue. This was for many years the home of John Peirce and later his son's, Harmon Peirce. Harmon walked to California, bringing home with him the slippery elm and black walnut trees which were set out on this place. The home is no longer standing.



John Peirce House

# THE CAPTAIN NATHANIEL STAPLES HOMESTEAD

The Staples house, built in 1834, is situated on the west side of Main street, about two hundred and fifty feet north of Stetson Street. It has been occupied in turn by Captain Nathaniel Staples; his son, Harrison; Harrison's daughter, Julia (Staples) Bassett, and now by Ralph M. Bassett, eldest son of Julia Bassett.

The house has eight rooms, a large front hall, and five fireplaces. Two of these are in the chimney in the ell, which also contains a warming oven and an iron kettle, with firebox beneath for heating water in which clothes were boiled before washing. The wainscotting in the first floor rooms was made from single boards, twenty inches wide. The original inside finish and doors were all "gotten out" by hand and the first floor walls are nine feet, four inches in height. For the foundation, granite was hauled over the road from Quincy, Mass., by oxen, and many of the rafters are hand-hewed native pine.

This house was said to be much admired by many people who came from miles around to inspect it at completion.



Captain Nathaniel Staples House

## THE GEORGE WILLIAMS HOUSE

The George Williams house is on Myricks Street or on the Old Indian Taunton Path, as described in the deed. It has been traced back and found to be over 200 years old. It was bought from a man named Parmer, who came from Vermont.

This farm, known as the Frank Williams place, has been owned by several generations of Williams: his great-grand-parents, George and Judith (Peirce), his grandparents, Elkanah and Catherine (Hoard), and his father and mother, John and Susan (Ashley).



George Williams House

## ONE OF THE PEIRCE HOUSES

Here is a picture of another of the Peirce houses, taken in 1896. This was the estate of Jirah Winslow, but was later owned and occupied by the Chester Peirce family. It is located on Peirce Avenue.

Originally there was a fireplace in each of the seven rooms, but recently one of the fireplaces has been removed. In examining the construction of the house, it is noticeable that the builders placed beams in the corners on the south side, but none on the north side. All the window frames have been fitted with windows of small panes of glass, similar to those first used.

The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Hennessey, have put this old Winslow homestead into excellent condition.



Jirah Winslow House

# THE OLIVER PEIRCE HOMESTEAD

The Oliver Peirce homestead on Beechwoods Road, now known as Peirce Avenue, was built about 1810. The house is two and one-half stories high, with fourteen rooms and seven fireplaces. The woodwork in the living room has an unusual pattern: the molding, chair rail and frame of the fireplace are all hand-carved. Someone, for his board and room, spent the winter months making this room very attractive. Near the house once stood a blacksmith shop, where carriages were repaired and horses shod.

Oliver Peirce was the great-grandfather of the present owner and occupant, Percival F. Staples, and great-great-grandfather of Leslie J. Staples. The house, with its twelve-by-twelve-inch timbers and six-by-six-inch rafters, was built to last for many generations.



Oliver Peirce House

# THE JAMES P. PIERCE HOUSE

On March 8, 1792, Harmon Pierce purchased land and a homestead on Beechwoods Road from John Hoar. In 1809, Philip inherited the easterly portion of the estate from his father. In turn Philip left his farm of forty-five acres and one house "with one-half mill privileges" to his son, James P. Pierce, and to his daughter, Ella (Pierce) Hinds. The farm remained in the family until 1941 when it became the property of Mr. and Mrs. Albert H. Heineck of Middlebury, Conn., who still occupy it.

The house itself has always been kept in excellent condition, and only a few changes have been made by its present owners: modern plumbing, an all-electric kitchen, oil heat, and the use of the old kitchen as a second living room. In the house are two huge pantries and eleven rooms, those on the first floor being nearly nine feet in height. The woodwork is not unusual, but the doors have Norfolk-type hinges. Five fireplaces have always provided warmth and cheer for the occupants. The foundation of the house is solid granite.

This property has long been known for its tall pines; but the hurricane in 1944 levelled thirty-two of these stately trees, thereby destroying the growth of years in a single night.

# THE JOSIAH DEMARANVILLE HOUSE

The Josiah DeMaranville House, said to have been built in the eighteenth century, is located on Lakeside Avenue. In the picture, the back of the house is shown, because it was the front when the house was built. The road left its present course about half a mile from the homestead and followed the swamp, going by the house, then crossing Tamett Brook, thence through the woods until it came to the Turnpike (now Bedford Street) about one hundred feet beyond Long Point Road.



Josiah DeMaranville House

The house is an original Cape Codder with the door in the center and the window lights above it. On either side of the front hall is a large room. In the rear is the kitchen with a small bedroom on each side and a pantry. There are four fireplaces, three downstairs and one on the second floor. A Dutch oven has been sealed up for many years. The present owner, Mrs. Claire Anderson, has found a hidden chamber, with the paper still on its walls.

This bit of Lakeville has changed hands many times during the past one hundred years. In a deed dated 1850, it was described as the homestead farm of the late Samuel Pickens and was sold by James Albro of Providence to Charity A. Sampson. Other owners have been Sylvanus W. Sampson, 1874 to 1883; Ezra W. Sampson, 1883 to March 1892 and December 1892, for two days; Herbert A. Nye, March 1892 to December 1892; Arthur A. Caswell, December 1892 to 1895; Josiah DeMaranville, 1895 to 1902 and William DeMaranville, 1902. Mrs. Anderson became the owner in 1948.

## CHAPTER X

## LAKES AND RIVERS



AKEVILLE, as the name implies, is noted for its lakes, with all their scenic beauty. Assawompsett, Long Pond, Large and Small Pocksha and Big and Little Quittacus are the chain of lakes, which are spoken of

as the most beautiful in southern New England.

Lakeville also has Elder's Pond, named for Elder John Montgomery, and considered very deep; Clear Pond, now a water supply for the State Sanatorium; Loon Pond, between Bedford and Precinct Streets, with the Boston Boy Scout Camp on the southern end and several cottages on the northern shore; Cranberry Pond, one of the smaller lakes, located back of Indian Shore and very dangerous, because it has no bottom; Cedar Pond, at one time surrounded by trees, located at the left of Long Point Road, and Dunham's Pond, in the North Lakeville district, off Harrison Avenue.

## LAKE ASSAWOMPSETT

Lake Assawompsett, which is the largest body of fresh water in the state and also one of the most beautiful in the county, covers 2,220 acres. It has been said by those who have traveled the country over, that they have seen none to excel it.

The meaning of that Indian name Assawompsett is "the place of the white stones". In early English records it was spelled in various ways: Assawomset, Assawomset, Assawompset and each spelling with the two t's. Assawompsett is the most common spelling.

The first settlers learned from the Indians that formerly there were two islands in the lake, one on the west side, about half-amile from Indian Shore, where there are now three large rocks; the other one on the opposite side of the pond. These islands were probably washed away by some severe storm. The sites are now considered dangerous because of the rocks and the shallowness of the water. The island in the eastern part of the lake was, traditionally, inhabited by a race of little people called "Pukwudjees". They were smaller than the red men but were, like them, subject to the rule of Ke-che Mani-to, the Great Spirit. It was in the fall of 1949, when the ponds and lakes were so low, that the sites of these islands were visible.

In the summer of 1875 a group of Taunton boys camped for the first time on the south shore of Assawompsett Lake, near Sidney T. Nelson's grove. The following summer the boys moved their camp to John Hiram Nelson's Stony Point Grove, on the western shore of the lake. Then another camp was started at Miller Sampson's Green Point Grove, which was situated on the extreme northwestern shore. Joseph Dean of Taunton built the first cottage at Nelson's Grove in 1878. Since that time many summer cottages and permanent homes have been built along the shores of this beautiful lake.

Many times guests at Sampson's Tavern have fished on this pond. Others remember picnics on these historical shores.

Tragic stories can be told of this lake with all its beauty, the waters of Assawompsett having claimed many lives.

## LONG POND

Long Pond was called Lake Apponequet by the Indians. The name itself, Long Pond, describes the length, said to be five miles long and containing 1,760 acres. Lake Apponequet has three islands, each with two or more names: the largest, Third, Alden's, Pine or Nelson's; the next in size, Second or Lewis, and the smallest, Goat or Whet Stone. Lewis Island was once owned by Lyman Howland and was referred to as Lyman's Island. Mr.

#### LAKES AND RIVERS

Howland built a boat with hand-propelled wheels, and with this he was able to go to the island where he had a cranberry bog. He needed his horse for work on the bog, so he tied the animal to the stern of the boat, and together they reached the other side. Later he had a more modern boat for carrying cranberry pickers across. Now the island is dotted with many summer cottages.

It is said that the Indians put a curse on Long Pond and because of this someone is drowned in it every so often.

# GREAT AND LITTLE QUITTACUS

The two ponds, Big and Little Quittacus, still retain the name of an Indian Chief. Like all Indian names there are several variations in the spelling.

Big Quittacus is sometimes called "Queen of Lakes," and has three rocky islands in its deep water. Reed's Island is in Rochester, but the other two, Great Island and Wyman's or Pismire Island, are in Lakeville. This pond covers 1,128 acres, part of it in Rochester. Little Quittacus is known as, "That Gem". Both of these ponds are used as a water supply for the City of New Bedford.

## RIVERS AND BROOKS

The Nemasket River pursues its way from Lake Assawompsett through Lakeville and Middleboro and empties into the Taunton River. The word "Nemasket" is probably derived from two Indian words, "Nemah," meaning "a fish," and its terminal "et," meaning "the place of". This river has also been known as "Canal River" and the lowlands and swamps through which it passes, "Canal Swamp".

Long Pond River connects the two lakes, Apponequet and Assawompsett.

Tamett Brook starting at a spring on the author's old homestead, crosses under Lakeside Avenue, then Bedford Street, runs through the old Tobey place and the Westgate farm, on into Assawompsett.

Frank's or Rooty Brook crosses Main Street at the foot of the hill, just beyond the Assawompsett School.

Bates Brook starts near Loon Pond, crosses Bedford Street, runs through the Ward farm where it is joined by the Tan-Yard Brook, then crosses Main Street and empties into Assawompsett Lake.

Holloway Brook starts from a spring at the bottom of Tinkham Hill, crosses Kingman Street, County Road and Peirce Avenue, and then joins Cedar Swamp River, which empties into the Assonet River.

Bell's Brook or Cry-Baby Brook starts in a swamp back of the Howland Brothers and crosses Freetown Street at the foot of Cinder Hill and then joins Cedar Swamp River. According to tradition, it received the name of Bell's Brook from a horse by the name of Bell, because it became stuck in the mud and drowned, and Cry-Baby Brook, because years ago a baby fell in and became wedged under the road and was drowned before anyone could get him out.

Barney's Brook starting on the Barney Farm crosses Bedford Street and runs through the Tack Factory Pond, crossing Taunton Road and then joining Poquoy Brook.

Poquoy Brook is also known as Pudding Brook. It is said that the Indians used the water from this brook for their Indian pudding. Poquoy Brook crosses Southworth Street, Taunton Road and Cross Street. It forms the boundry line of Lakeville and Middleboro for a short distance. On some maps it is called Trout Brook.

There are two brooks crossing Highland Road which join together and run into Long Pond. One is Hinds Mill Brook or Ashley's Brook and the other is Hathaway Brook.

# CHAPTER XI

## **CHURCHES**

## CHARACTERISTICS OF OLD CHURCHES



EARLY all the old churches were small and painted white with a steeple, a belfry and a bell. On the front of the church were usually two doors painted green, which opened into a narrow entry, where two doors

opposite, led to a main room. A flight of stairs at each end of the entry ascended to a gallery or singers' seats, which faced the high mahogany pulpit, with its red velvet cushion on which rested the Bible and the red-covered book of hymns and psalms. At the back of the pulpit was a cane-seated chair, with chairs at each side. The people owned their pews and furnished their own cushions and carpets. Each pew had a door which, after the family had entered, was closed and fastened with a brass button.

In the winter a fire was built in a box stove, with long pipes which went down the length of the auditorium and into the chimney by the pulpit. Wood was burned in the stove, which often smoked. The pipes would fill up with soot and the dampness caused them to leak, sending a dark colored liquid down on the white walls and the painted pews. The stove and pipe were expected to warm the whole church, but some of the ladies would bring a foot-stove filled with hot coals, or perhaps a hot brick to put under their feet. The women seldom had occasion to unpin their shawls or to loosen their cloaks, and they usually kept their hands in their big muffs all through the service. Some of the elderly people with poor circulation would perhaps take a good dose of hot drops before starting for meeting.

In the summer, the church doors, windows and blinds were wide open, in order that the sunlight and air might have full play.

The quiet stillness of the hour was seldom disturbed by the rumbling of passing carriages but there was occasionally the stamping of uneasy horses in the adjacent sheds.

Every one went to meeting on Sunday, old men, old women, young men, maidens and little children. It was very tiresome for the little ones to sit through a long sermon. Sunday was a long tiresome day for the children, whose playthings were put away on Saturday night not to be taken out until Monday morning. Even the accordion, the only musical instrument in many homes, was placed on the upper shelf for fear it might take up the familiar strains of "Yankee Doodle" on the Lord's Day, and they must remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

They went to church in the morning, Sunday School from twelve to one, and then stayed through the afternoon service. Later they would go home tired and hungry. After dinner they could study the next Sunday School lesson and read the old, old stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and Daniel in the Lion's Den.

The meeting house bell was rung at nine o'clock on Sunday morning and those within hearing distance would set their clocks and watches and feel sure that they had the correct time. The bell was tolled for a death in the parish. When a person was very sick and not expected to live, people who were interested would listen at sunrise and sunset for the bell and they would slowly and solemnly count the strokes.

The hour at noon between the sermons was devoted to the Sunday School. As soon as the morning service was over, the children would hurry out of their seats for a little recreation before they were called back. Not many minutes would elapse however before the superintendent would go to the front of the pulpit and say, "Sabbath School Scholars will please take their places." It was very unusual to see a grown person reciting the Sunday School lesson. The older women would get together and talk over the news of the week. The men would assemble in the horse sheds and talk over their planting, having or harvest-

#### **CHURCHES**

ing and the Sunday before the March Town Meeting politics would hold sway. When Sabbath School was over, the children would rush out for a few minutes to eat their light luncheon which would be a cracker or two carried in their pockets, or in little bags. Perhaps they would go to the parson's house for a refreshing drink of water from the northeast corner of the well. The little girls would often go back to the meeting with a few wild flowers, but they would soon tire of holding these in their hands and would throw them into the wooden box of sand or sawdust, which stood in the corner of the pew near the entrance.

There were no programs passed to the people as they entered the church, no army of young men passed plates or longhandled boxes for contributions every Sunday. Occasionally, a collection would be taken for some charity — if so, the minister would tell of the case or the object of the collection.

The first pews at each side of the pulpit were called free pews. They were seldom occupied since nearly all had their own seats.

## THE INDIAN CHURCH

The Indian Church at Assawompsett Neck was one of three Indian churches. This church, which was organized at Assawompsett, was prosperous until the King Philip War. After the war, this Indian Church seems to have been disbanded and the members worshipped in the churches of the white settlers.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH

In the "History of the Town of Middleboro," written by Thomas Weston, it is recorded that many, many years ago there was a small church of the Christian denomination in Middleboro (that part which is now Lakeville), of which the Rev. Daniel Hicks was the first pastor and where afterwards the Rev. George Peirce preached for a time. Abiel Nelson was the deacon and clerk of this church. It has long since ceased to exist and no records of the church organization can be obtained.

## THE PRECINCT CHURCH

In 1719, the residents of Turner Street and Rhode Island Road deemed it advisable to seek aid from the Great and General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay for the acquisition of church property. They were granted several acres; on June 17th the Middleboro and Taunton Precinct Church was incorporated. During the next year the first meetinghouse was erected, a short distance eastward from the site of the present edifice. The members of the parish assisted in the construction of the church. It was voted that each man should work three days a week in completing the building. On October 6, 1725, a church was established, some of the members coming from the First Church in Middleboro.



Precinct Church

On November 17, 1725, the Rev. Benjamin Ruggles was ordained as the first pastor and continued to preach until Decem-

### **CHURCHES**

ber, 1753, a period of twenty-eight years. For nearly eight years the pulpit was supplied by seven different pastors.

A second meetinghouse was built in 1759. On April 16, 1761, the Rev. Caleb Turner was ordained as the second minister and he served for forty years.

The maintenance of the parish has been assured for the past 125 years by a fund of \$4,000 given by Nicholas Roche, a parishioner who died in 1808. He was a peddler and amassed a considerable sum of money. The Roche fund has been increased \$3,000 by Hugh Montgomery.

Other ministers and supply pastors follow:

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1801 - 1819—Thomas Crafts (third)
1819 - 1834—John Shaw (fourth)
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The church was without a pastor for two years; but meanwhile a third church was erected, which was an improved house of worship.

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1836 - 1842—Homer Barrows (fifth)
1842 - 1851—J. K. Bragg (sixth)
1851 - 1857—Calvin Chapman (seventh)
1858 - 1860—Augustine Root (eighth)
May 1860 - May 1861—Different ministers officiated
1861 - 1863—George G. Perkins
1863 - 1868—James Ward
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December 1868 - October 1869—No regular supply 1869 - 1872—Homer Barrows

April 1872 - April 1873—Ward, Pratt, Drake, Barrows, Haley, Fales and Lord

1873 - 1877—Charles W. Wood 1877 - 1880—J. C. Thacher (ninth)

1880 - 1892—E. Dawes

1892 - 1894—John Graham

1895 - 1896—G. W. Ellison

1896 - 1897—H. E. Johnson

1897 - 1908—George H. Perry

1908 - 1910—Albert H. Plumb

1910 - 1916—Washington H. Forbes

1916 - 1917—Herbert L. Wilber

1917 - 1918—Floyd H. Weed

1918 - 1926—Lawrence F. McDonald

1926 - 1929—Lewis Perry

1930—Mr. McDonald preached until the church joined the Rochester - Lakeville Larger Parish.

1930 - 1938—Everett T. Bemont, Harry L. Coole and A. Walter Solandt

1938 - 1943—Herbert L. Wilber

1944 - 1946—Norman Brooks

1946 - 1948—Supply pastors

1948 - 1951—Norman Farnum

April 1951 - November 1951—Supply pastors

1951 to present time—T. Merton Rymph

In 1885 the chapel was built, adjoining the church. In recent years the Precinct Women's Society has been a very active organization, holding entertainments, sales and suppers to raise funds to help serve the community. Easter programs have been arranged by the society and children entertained at Christmas parties.

It is often said and thought that this beautiful old church was built on the boundary line between two towns and two counties; that the line ran between the pulpit and the pews, so that the minister stood in Taunton in Bristol County and preached to a congregation in Lakeville in Plymouth County. But in looking over some blueprints of Rhode Island Road it would seem that only a corner of the old horse-shed is over the line into Taunton.

On Sunday, July 8, 1923, the congregation of this lovely old church observed the two hundredth anniversary of the first preaching in that section. The church, simple and dignified as churches were in the olden days, was fragrant with memories of the past as well as with the old-fashioned flowers, which had been gathered and arranged by a group of ladies, directed by Mrs. Edward Caswell. The church was filled to capacity for this service, both interesting and appropriate.

## BAPTIST CHURCHES

The first members of the Second Baptist Church were probably among those who were dissatisfied with the teachings of the Congregational Church and owing to the great influence of the Rev. Whitefield's preaching became Separatists. This church was formed through the influence of Thomas Nelson, who had joined the Baptist Church at Swansea.

#### **CHURCHES**

In 1753, a Baptist Church was organized and meetings were held at the Nelson home at Assawompsett Neck. The services of the Rev. Ebenezer Hinds were secured to preach to the people at the Nelson home.

Two years before this, in 1751, a Separatist Church was formed in Beech Woods district. James Mead was ordained its pastor, October 3, 1751, and William Smith was deacon at that time. Rev. Mr. Mead died in 1756 and the members of his church became Baptists and with those who had worshipped in the house of Mr. Nelson united to form a church in the meeting house at Beech Woods. This occurred on November 16, 1757, with the Rev. Ebenezer Hinds as pastor and William Hoar as deacon. On May 19, 1798, the church was accidentally destroyed by fire. The parsonage was burned at the same time. A few years later, new buildings were erected near the site of the old ones. The meeting-house was used until about 1843. The parsonage was occupied for many years by Dennis Tinkham and was known as the Ministerial Farm. It is now the summer home of Mr. Tinkham's granddaughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Macomber and Mrs. Susie Johnson.

In 1841 the church was divided, a large part of the members following the pastor, Elder William Shurtleff, and organizing the "Christian" Church at Mullein Hill. Others formed a Free-Will Baptist Church, and the remainder of the people adhered to the Calvinistic faith of that denomination.

Following is a list of the members of the Free-Will Church: Stephen C. Ramsdell, widow of Elisdel W. Hoard, widow Anne Douglas, widow of Enos Parris, James Staples, James P. Peirce, J. W. Canedy, David Ashley, Ezra McCully, Mary B. Hart, Zebulon Shaw, Seth Keen, Simeon Baker, Charity L. Sears, Seth Howland, Betsy McCully, Jane Caswell, Lelander Terry and George S. Hoare.

# THE OLD POND MEETING - HOUSE

The Pond Church, as it was commonly called, was the Fourth Baptist Church in Lakeville, which at that time was part of Mid-

dleboro. It is said that twenty-five members of the Second Baptist Church, probably desiring a nearer place to worship, met on the 30th of November, 1795, for the purpose of building a meetinghouse.

Major Peter Hoar was chosen moderator, Dr. Thomas Nelson, clerk, and it was voted to build the meeting house. About twenty good names were taken of those who would assist. A committee was selected to find a location for the building. The committee included: Colonel John Nelson, Captain Job Peirce, Eben Briggs and John Perkins.

At first it was voted that the church should be built upon Shockley Hill, which was on Highland Road. The site was afterwards changed to the narrow strip of land between the Turnpike and Assawompsett Pond, near what later became known as Sampson's Cove.

Thomas Nelson, 3rd, was the first Baptist in Lakeville, and, with his family, attended the Swansea Baptist Church which was twenty miles away. Consequently, Mr. Nelson was among the prominent members of the Pond Meeting-House.

Benjamin Peirce, who was always called Benjamin Chase, was a house carpenter and the master builder of the Pond Meeting-House, in 1796. It is said to have been a very fine structure and was occupied as a place of worship until about the year 1861.

Lottery tickets were sold to the members to raise funds for the support of the church. The tickets were countersigned by a church officer and the prizes were drawn off frequently.

The church was not formed until August 19, 1800, when the organization took the name of the United Brethren, worshipping in the house which had been erected three years before. From the completion of the place of worship until the organization of the church, services were conducted by various clergymen of the Baptist denomination. During the first seven years of its organization there were thirty-three communicants. In 1804 the church voted to change the name to the Fourth Baptist Church.

#### **CHURCHES**

The Rev. Samuel Abbott, the first preacher, remained over this church for only a short time. Afterwards, the pulpit was supplied by various clergymen, until about 1809 or 1810, when Elder Ebenezer Briggs was chosen pastor. He continued as the pastor of the church until 1846 and was widely-known in this and adjoining towns as an able minister, genial and thoroughly devoted to his work and having the confidence and love of all.

A fund was left to the deacons of this church under the wills of Asa King and Andrew Cole, which, upon the dissolution of the church and society, was transferred to the deacons of the Central Baptist Church of Middleboro and the Baptist Church of Raynham, to be held by them in trust to carry out the wishes of the donors.

On August 9, 1828, eight persons were received from the Pond Baptist Church into the Central Baptist Church at Middleboro Four Corners. They were Major Levi Peirce, Elisha Tucker, Molly Leonard, Prudence Holmes, Anna Hines, Sally Peirce. Sally B. Tucker and Thankful Miller.

When public worship was discontinued, in 1861, the church was sold by the proprietors. A portion of it was made into a public hall and was called Sassamon Hall. The late Miss Hannah K. Nelson told of attending a party at Sassamon Hall and it was there that she ate her first ice cream. Another portion of it was a grocery store and the back part used as a tenement. It was burned in the early part of 1870. It is said that two old ladies, living there at the time it was burned, fled in their nightgowns and bare feet to the Washburn House, which stood across from the Town House.

Nothing is left of the Old Pond Meeting - House but a stone-marker, put there some years ago by Matthew Cushing, Elisha Jenks and others. The marker reads: "Site of Baptist Church. erected 1796, burned 1870".

## THE MULLEIN HILL CHURCH

The Mullein Hill Church was organized February 19, 1842, by sixteen members of the Second Baptist Church, who seceded to form this organization under the leadership of Elder William Shurtleff. The tract of land where the church now stands was purchased from Samuel Robbins for \$30. The Mullein Hill Church, which is located on Highland Road, was known as the Christian Baptist Church.



Mullein Hill Church

Some of the early pastors were William M. Bryant, Bartlett Cushman, George Tyler, Elijah W. Barrows, Theophilus Brown, and M. S. Chadwick. Although the organizers have passed on, the people of the community and the descendants of former members, headed by Zebulon L. Canedy and Mrs. Arabella Ashley, have kept this ancient meeting house in good repair. The church is now partly supported from a fund left for the Baptist ministry in town. This church has also received a bequest of \$1,000 from Lucy W. Canedy.

#### **CHURCHES**

For years the church was open only in pleasant weather or from April until about Christmas. Services were resumed in 1920 by the Rev. Charles W. Allen of Weymouth and were maintained for nine years. In the summer of 1932, at the request of interested people in the community, the church was again opened, with services at 7 o'clock Sunday nights. The interest grew and a few weeks later a Sunday School was organized with Mrs. Leroy Washburn as superintendent. This school, which began with eight boys and girls in 1932, now has approximately fifty enrolled. Much credit is due Mrs. Washburn and the pianist, Mrs. S. Elbert Washburn, for continuing this splendid service to the community. In September, the Rev. Charles Allen, assisted by the Rev. Raymond W. Cooper, visited from house to house through the day, and held meetings in the church at night for ten days. On Friday evening, September 15th, a Community Baptist Church was organized with seventeen members.

A day, long to be remembered in the history of this church, was on Sunday, September 17, 1932, when the pastor, assisted by Rev. Mr. Cooper, baptized six people in Long Pond. There were five adults and one eleven-year-old girl, Winnifred Washburn. The others were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Washburn, Miss Amelia Johnson, Mrs. Clarence Washburn and Martin King Staples, who was then 75 years of age.

In time the morning services were discontinued. But in 1952, after a lapse of fifteen years, they began once more under the ministry of John A. Burgess, 3rd, of Middleboro, a graduate of Gordon College and Gordon Divinity School, and holder of the degree of Master of Education from the School of Education of Boston University.

## GROVE CHAPEL

Grove Chapel on Bedford Street was built in 1875, at the cost of about \$1,600. The land on which the church now stands was given by Sidney Tucker and his wife, Sarah Tucker, of Middleboro. They gave it, in consideration of \$1, in a special trust

to Sidney T. Nelson, Churchill Westgate and Benjamin C. Horr, as the three trustees, and if there should be a vacancy the remaining two should appoint a third member to the board. The church was built largely by the men of the neighborhood and by contributions from those interested in the erection of a meeting house. The late George Henry Shaw of Middleboro was instrumental in its erection. The services were often led by Mr. Shaw or by some of the fathers of the town.



Grove Chapel

The chapel was dedicated October 7, 1875. The sermon was preached by the Rev. H. M. Parsons of Boston. The organ was presented by friends in New Bedford and the Bible was given by C. W. Dexter of Boston.

The first regular pastor was the Rev. William Leonard, who continued to preach at the Union Grove Chapel until November 1881, when the Rev. Richard T. Wilton became the pastor. From available record books, some of the other pastors down through the years have been the Reverends: H. J. Stone, A. H. Keene, J. R. Flint, H. D. Woodworth, S. B. Andrews, John Graham, W.

J. Carter, E. P. Greene, Leslie B. Withee, J. J. Hartshorn, Mr. Roach, G. Perry, Annie L. Ridgway, Mr. Childs, Charles Forbes, Lawrence McDonald and Lewis E. Perry.

It was voted to make the Union Grove Chapel, the Grove Chapel Congregational Church. On Easter Sunday, April 17, 1927, during the ministry of the Rev. L. E. Perry, the church was duly received into the fellowship of the Old Colony Association of Churches and Ministers. A meeting of the association was held in Fairhaven, May 10, 1927, and Mrs. Alice Nute and Mrs. Harriet Grant attended as delegates from Grove Chapel. On June 26, 1927, a service of recognition and fellowship took place here in Lakeville.

The charter members were Abbie C. Cudworth, Alice M. Nute, Elizabeth Cudworth, Byron M. Nute, Harriet Grant, Eva A. Grant, Harriet E. Crapo, S. Everett Crapo, Franklin V. Birdsall, Ruth L. Birdsall, Edward C. Spooner, Bernice W. Plissey, Mary E. Plissey, Marjorie E. Plissey and Elizabeth Plissey.

On October 2, 1927, the bell was consecrated to be used to remind the people to assemble in the chapel to worship and serve God. An interesting historical sketch was given by Clifton W. Nelson, who stated that the bell had called his grandfather, his father and himself to attend day school. This bell, too, called the people to religious services held in the Bell schoolhouse. These words were used in consecrating the bell, "We now consecrate this bell to God and we pray that from this time it may ring to remind the people to assemble in this building to worship and to serve God." The late Byron Nute was instrumental in obtaining the bell, which was from the old Bell schoolhouse. E. Frank Shaw of Middleboro contributed a manual of the newly-organized church in memory of his father, the late George Henry Shaw. Mrs. F. C. Gammons of Bridgewater gave to the church a new individual communion set in memory of her three aunts, Mrs. Fannie M. Allen, Mrs. Margaret C. Fish and Mrs. Jane Heron, who formerly attended services in the chapel.

Pastors from then until the present time were from the Rochester-Lakeville Larger Parish, which was formed in 1929

with the East Rochester, North Rochester, Precinct and Grove Chapel Congregational Churches. The Rev. Harry Coole, assisted by the Rev. Everett Bemont and later by the Rev. Andrew Solandt occupied the pulpit. The Rev. John E. Hunt of Mexico, Maine, became pastor in April, 1939, but died on November 5th.

The next regular pastor was the Rev. Arthur Keenan, who was ordained in 1941 while preaching at Grove Chapel. The Rev. David J. Julius of the Middleboro Central Congregational Church was acting pastor when the meetings were discontinued for a while. On July 8, 1951, the weekly services were resumed with supply pastors filling the pulpit. At the present time, Rev. T. Merton Rymph is the regular minister.

Although there are no available records of a Sunday School until later years, it is known that Sunday School classes were held and that they were well attended in the early days of the chapel.

The first deaconess was Miss Emma Gooch, who at that time lived on Bedford Street. She held that office from 1875 to 1901, when she moved to Acushnet. In 1927, when the church was voted a Congregational Church, Mrs. Alice Nute was appointed deaconess and later Mrs. Mary E. Plissey, who still holds that office.

On August 16, 1900, a successful party was held at the church, which was largely arranged by friends at Pleasantville and the Social Circle was formed. The officers elected were: president, the Rev. Caleb L. Rotch; vice-president, Mrs. Albert White; secretary, Miss Myra Williams, and treasurer, Mrs. Elisha Cudworth.

It is known also that there was a Sewing Circle connected with the chapel from 1885 until 1932. Mrs. Mary Jane Brown was one of its faithful workers.

In 1919, the Comrades Club was organized with Mrs. Harriet Grant, president; Mrs. Katie DeMaranville, vice-president; Gladys DeMaranville, secretary, and Mrs. Nellie Maxim, treas-

## **CHURCHES**

urer. The kitchen at the back of the chapel was built by the Comrades and they also paid for the installation of electric lights.

From time to time a Christian Endeavor Society has been active and at one time a choir was formed with Mrs. Dorothy Clark as director. The Larger Parish Choristers was organized and on February 12, 1932, they broadcast a concert over the radio from Boston.

There have been christenings and funeral services held at the chapel but only one wedding. On June 5, 1937, Miss Hilda Crowther, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Crowther of Bedford Street, became the bride of Albert Slater.

There is little change in the appearance of the chapel from the olden days, except the loss of several trees caused by the hurricane of September 14, 1938.

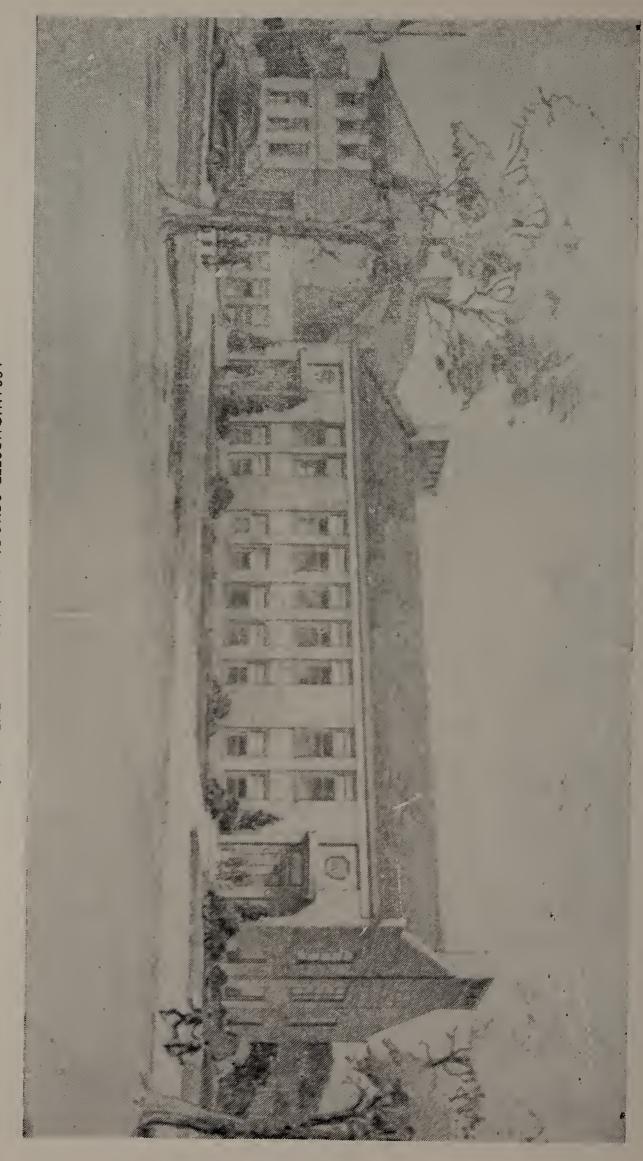
## UNION CHAPEL

The Union Chapel in North Lakeville on the Taunton Road was built in 1876. A church lot, twenty-nine feet by forty-five feet containing about one-third of an acre, was deeded by Clarinda Jackson to George Barney, Charles H. White and Mary Richmond as trustees for the Union Chapel. This Chapel was built by contributions from the good people of the neighborhood.

On the building committee were Fred White, Elbridge Holloway, George Holloway, George Osborne, Hiram Elmes, Nathan Aldrich and Mary Richmond. Eva Holloway was organist for a great many years.

In 1907, Herbert Sylvester from the Men's Class in Middleboro was supply pastor.

After the church had been closed for a number of years, in 1935 or 1936, the North Lakeville Community Club was organized, with its meetings being held in the Union Chapel.



ASSAWOMPSETT SCHOOL ADDITION - OPENED 1950



This photograph of Lakeville Carmen was taken by George H. Wilbur of Middleboro on a Sunday morning, in 1905 or 1906, about 6 A.M., in front of the Lakeville Car Barn, which was located about one-quarter of a mile north of the Freetown-Lakeville town line,

# ROSTER

Front row (left to right): Walter Cornell No. 607, John A. Belden No. 239, Lester M. Gammons, John H. Hayes, superintendent; Archie Savage No. 614, Edward J. Robinson, barn foreman; Dennis Sheehan No. 1311, James D. Maxim No. 1048, Ralph M. Bassett No. 163, Francis Goegan No. 1293, Harry Stickney, Henry White No. 1166, Fred Gifford, fireman; Frank O. Daniels, Everett Bradley,

Second row (left to right): Charles Lawrence No. 1292, Fred Swift No. 1303, Wallace L. Sampson No. 119, Everett F. Grant No. 1108, David Fraser No. 618, Allen Gifford No. 620, Charles Goodhue No. 615, Joseph Seymour, trackman; ...... Collins No. 986.

Back row (left to right): Joseph Costa, lineman; George A. Chase No. 789, Thomas C. Beaton No. 623, William G. Chappell No. 624, Alfred P. Manton No. 612, and in the later years was the superintendent at Lakeville barn; Alfred H. Shurtleff No. 613, Ernest Loner No. 1270, Frank Blair, fireman.

The odd numbers are for conductors, the even numbers are for motormen. A few of the men were absent, among them were John Kelly and Albert Webb, conductors, and Frank Bumpus, chief engineer. This photo was taken during a very thick fog. A special car was sent to Middleboro to bring Mr. Wilbur, the photographer, to the car barn.





Hannah Nelson, Mary D. W. Nelson, and May Nelson. Taken in 1926.



John Hiram Nelson, father of Misses Hannah and May Nelson. Taken in 1903.

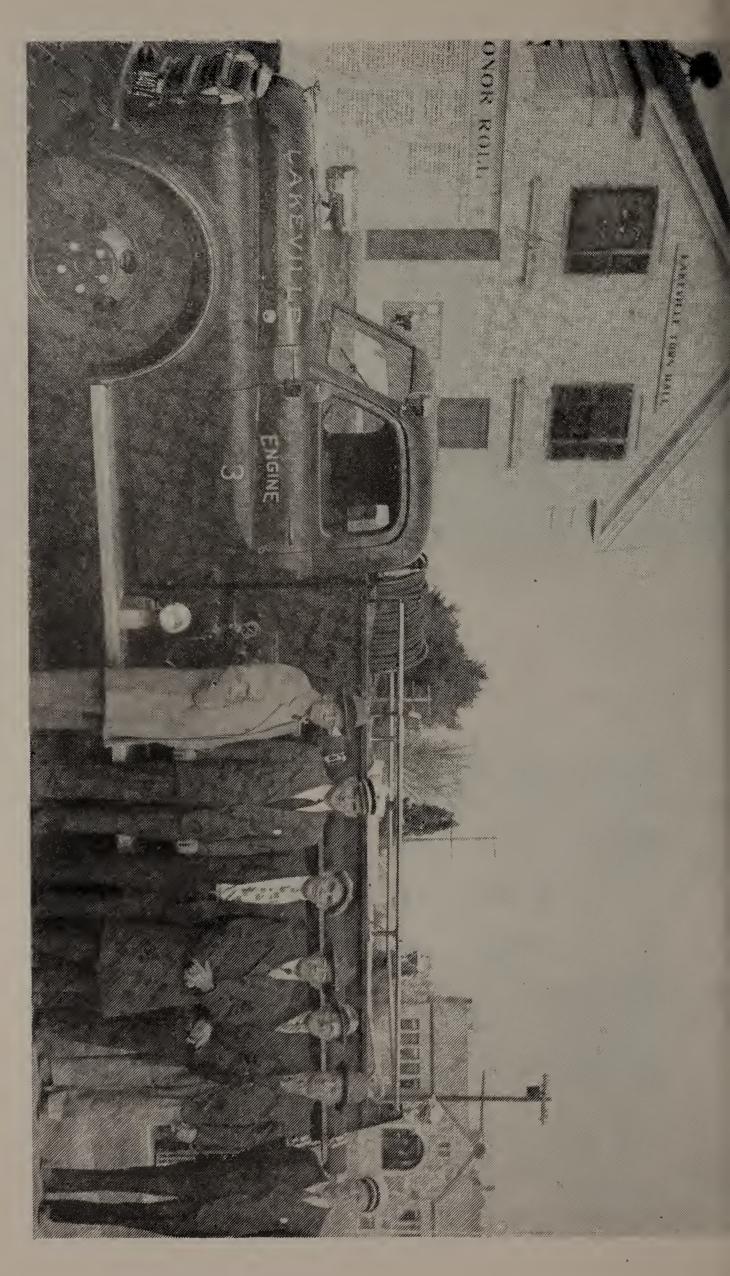




Brothers: Chester and Ethan Peirce. In front of the original Peirce Homestead off Peirce Avenue.



Fred Shockley—80th birthday. Taken in 1941 on "Puzzle."



BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS

Left to right: Walter A. D. Clark, chairman; Edmund Knysinski, chief; Harold Hemmingson, Edward DeMello, secretary; Joseph Gladu, Frank Orrall and Charles L. Weston, first deputy.

# CHAPTER XII

### **CEMETERIES**

# INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS



HE largest Indian cemetery in Lakeville is on the banks of Little Quittacus, between the lake and Bedford Street. This cemetery is concealed from view by trees and the City of New Bedford now owns the land

around it. There are several graves, but only three or four have grave stones, the rest are field stone markers.

One stone has writing on it, but is so worn and broken that only part of the inscription is readable:

In memory of Who died April her 23 year who died April in his 26 year

also

At the bottom of the stone is written the name Lydia Squeen a native. Lydia Squeen is believed to be the last full-blooded Indian squaw in Lakeville.

There is another Indian burying ground between Assawomp-sett Lake and Bedford Street, back of the old George Spooner place. It is located on a small hill or mound. The only markers are field stones. It is said that these Indian graves were opened over thirty years ago (1921).

It is believed that Indians were buried in the woods off Lang Street and also off Taunton Street in North Lakeville, but there is no proof of this.

Sassamon's grave is situated in a lonely spot deep in the heart of the forest, nearly a mile from any public highway and near

the former home of the Mitchell family, the lineal descendants of that old and remarkable Indian chieftain, Tuspaquin. It is a lone grave on the bank of Assawompsett Lake. Sassamon, the first Indian Missionary, was murdered and pushed under the ice in the winter of 1675, in Sampson's cove.

There are also a number of other Indian graves found in that vicinity. Two have stones: one for William Smith, who died February 17, 1875, aged 61 years, and the other for Thomas N. Smith, who died March 7, 1872, aged 62 years. The latter stone also has an epitaph:

Mourn not for me my friends so dear Although in death I slumber here My days are past — my grave you see Therefore prepare to follow me.

# DOUGLASS CEMETERY

The Douglass Cemetery is off Highland Road on the Rotch Estate. Of the eight or ten graves only four have stones which are readable. These are Marim, wife of John Haskins, who died November 3, 1795, in "ye 53 year of her age"; in memory of "George Douglass, who died April 13, 1793, in ye 63 year of his age"; Prudence, widow of Mr. George Douglass, died May 4, 1759; Jothan Douglass, who died July 12, 1795, in the 26th year of his age.

# MULLEIN HILL CEMETERY

The Mullein Hill Cemetery is in the yard of the church on Highland Road and is well kept. There is one tomb, that of William Canedy, 1861. Several large monuments bear well-known names: Ashley, Winslow, Kingsford, Fletcher, Staples, Caswell, Washburn, Shaw, Robbins, Sampson and Hervey.

There is a G.A.R. marker on a grave with only a small stone having initials, "J. H." ("J. H." could be John Hinds). Two others have G.A.R. markers: Leander Winslow and Charles H. Winslow.

# THOMPSON HILL CEMETERY

The Thompson Hill Cemetery, located on Rhode Island Road, is without doubt one of the oldest in town and it is also the largest. As one looks diagonally from corner to corner, the white slabs marking the graves of by-gone generations loom up, although there are many large modern monuments to be seen in this cemetery. The low gray whetstone slabs of the seventeen hundreds make a noticeable line down the center, with the sides being added later. There are many graves without even markers and many, many more with only field stones. Many stones are so worn by the rains and winds that they are illegible.



Memorial for Ben Simon

"In memory of Ben Simon, the last male of the Native Indians in Middleboro, he was a Revolutionary soldier and died in May 1831, aged 80 years."

This stone was erected by Levi Reed and others of the neighborhood.

Another outstanding grave is that of Nicholas Roche. His grave marker is a large flat stone on upright posts covering his entire grave. The inscription reads as follows: "This Mon-

umental stone is erected in Memory of Mr. Nicholas Roche, who died October 31st, in 1808, aged 85 years. He was born in the Kingdom of Ireland and came from thence to America in the days of his youth, where by indefatigable industry he accumulated a handsome fortune; a valuable part of which he be-

queathed for the support of the Gospel Ministry in this and some of the adjacent Congregational Societies. He gave several large bequests to individuals. He directed his executors to distribute according to their judgment amongst the sober, honest and industrious poor. The deceased sustained through life an irreprochable moral character. The virtues which he practised and the judicious distribution which he made of his valuable property, more than any posthumous eulogium, speaks his praise."

The oldest grave that is readable seems to be that of Elkanah Leonard, 1676 - 1714.

The stones of the Poak family prove that they were among the first to be buried in this cemetery. Samuel Poak, 1661 - 1747, his wife Jennet, 1674 - 1742.

The huge Montgomery monument indicates the wealth of that family. The stone markers on all the graves are the same size and shape. Elder John Montgomery, 1707 - 1787, his wife Mary Strobridge, 1717 - 1790. Dr. Samuel Montgomery, 1753 - 1787. Rebecca Montgomery, 1765 - 1798. William Montgomery, 1755 - 1835. Anna Sampson, wife of Hugh Montgomery, 1764 - 1828. Daniel Briggs, 1796 - 1849, his wife Julia Montgomery, 1789 - 1880. Nancy Montgomery, 1789 - 1881. Rev. Joshua Dean, 1788 - 1843, his wife Mary Montgomery, 1788 - 1843. John Montgomery, 1799 - 1881.

None of the seventeenth century inscriptions can be read but it is reasonable to assume that some of the early stones date back to that century. More of the eighteenth century graves are those of William Canedy Esq., 1688 - 1774, his widow Elizabeth died in 1780; Enig. Samuel Shaw, 1699 - 1768, his wife Desire, 1703 - 1772; Prudence Richmond, 1750 - 1789; Joanna Miller, 1731 - 1758.

There is a very old stone for Nathaniel Smith, the date cannot be deciphered. Suanna Smith, wife of Nathaniel Smith, died at the age of 75 years but the date of her death is not readable. Lydia Smith, widow of Nathaniel Smith, died in 1790

and her age is illegible. Rachel Smith died in 1779. Nathaniel Smith, 1700 - 1782. Mrs. Elizabeth Smith died in 1772.

Nathan Sampson, 1718 - 1778. Captain John Barrows, 1742 - 1782. Mary Barrows, 1740 - 1759. Suannah Barrows died in 1749. Sarah Barrows, 1707 - 1795. Anner Elmes, 1762 - 1788. Ann Warren died in 1770. Henry Strobridge, 1719 - 1793. Lieut. Robert Strobridge, 1701 - 1790. Sarah Richmond died in 1761. Elizabeth Leonard, 1753 - 1791. Zebulon Leonard, 1728 - 1794, his wife Hannah died in 1796. Honorable Elkannah Leonard Esq., 1703 - 1777, his widow Elizabeth, 1703 - 1780. John Pickens, 1718 - 1798, his wife Ruth died in 1798.

Only the name, John Hacket, can be read on one old stone. Thomas Strobridge, 1769 - 1794. Another Thomas Strobridge, 1726 - 1749. James Strobridge, 1694 - 1773. William Strobridge, 1690 - 1777, his wife Margaret died in 1770. Another William Strobridge, 1724 - 1797, his wife Jane, 1727 - 1759. M. Thomas Strobridge, 1751 - 1777.

In the Washburn lot some of the old graves are those of: Prudence, 1780 - 1868. Luther, 1786 - 1856, his wife Hannah, 1785 - 1853. Amos Esq., 1774 - 1853. Olive, 1732 - 1817. Betsey, 1763 - 1845. Phebe, 1766 - 1841. Joseph died in 1818. Lydia, 1769 - 1803. James, 1781 - 1815. Captain Amos, 1742 - 1794, his widow Prudence, 1739 - 1804.

More old graves are those of Elisha Tinkham, 1792-1868, his wife Rhoda, 1795-1848. Nabby Tinkham, 1797-1838.

In the Crane lot there is a large monument for Gershom Crane, 1778 - 1848, his wife Sally, 1795 - 1875. The rest of the graves in this lot seem to be those of Strobridges: William, 1762 - 1842. Hannah, 1760 - 1826. Benjamin, 1766 - 1827, his wife Elizabeth, 1767 - 1792. Ebenezer, 1792 - 1849. Jane, widow of Henry, 1731 - 1815.

The Staples graves are Paul, 1786 - 1853, his first wife Hannah, 1784 - 1842, his second wife Sarah, 1781 - 1865. Rev. Caleb Turner, 1735 - 1803, his wife Phebe, 1738 - 1818, are buried here.

There is a small Caswell lot enclosed by short posts and rails with the graves of David Caswell, 1778 - 1837, his wife Lois, 1784 - 1868. In another Caswell lot are the graves of Abraham, 1791 - 1859, his wife Eliza Chase, 1796 - 1884. Additional Caswell graves are: David, 1741 - 1825, his wife Annis, 1755 - 1830.

In the Cain family lot: Samuel, 1772 - 1857, his wife Lucy, 1777 - 1856.

The Reed family graves include: Charles, 1735 - 1810, his wife Zilpha, 1740 - 1808. Lois, 1765 - 1855.

Sarah, wife of Zebedee Churchill, 1790 - 1874, is buried in the Churchill lot.

Old stones of the Haskins family: Orville, 1716 - 1793, his wife Lydia Kinsley, 1719 - 1887. Levi, 1794 - 1862. Joshua, 1754 - 1849. Joshua Jr., 1784 - 1861, his first wife Serna, 1786 - 1809, his second wife Rebecca S., 1790 - 1839. Mirick, 1786 - 1810. Appollas, 1797 - 1865. Deacon Andrew, 1789 - 1855, his wife Lydia B., 1794 - 1841.

In the Thompson lot are buried: Nathaniel, 1772 - 1850, his wife Joanna, 1785 - 1837. Sally, wife of Isaac, 1782 - 1809. Phebe, 1771 - 1850.

The Sampson graves which are in the seventeen hundreds are: Isaac, 1761 - 1846, his wife Deliverance, 1763 - 1821. Dr. John, 1750 - 1830, his wife Deborah, 1759 - 1844.

Members of the Kinsley family: Unite, 1792 - 1833, his widow Suanna Alden, 1795 - 1875.

Sarah Pickens Goodwin, 1798 - 1827.

Some of the old stones of the Shaw family are: Susanna, 1754 - 1836. Abraham, 1788 - 1822. Betsey, 1770 - 1854. Another Abraham, 1729 - 1808, his wife Sarah, 1733 - 1804.

The old stones of the Leonard family are: Gideon, 1756 - 1811, his wife Hannah, 1759 - 1840. Anna, 1792 - 1863. Another Gideon, 1792 - 1872. Zilpha, wife of Joseph, 1766- 1827.

In the Sears lot there are two graves: Remember, wife of Leonard, 1775 - 1803. Captain Elkanah, 1767 - 1838.

The Canedy lot has three graves: Captain William, 1729-1804, his widow Charity, 1731 - 1805. Hope, wife of Noble, 1761-1829.

Some of the smaller lots include the graves of: Abner Elmes, 1758 - 1830, his widow Phebe, 1738 - 1819.

Consider Jones, 1740 - 1820, his widow Patience, 1759 - 1845.

Allen Richmond, 1778 - 1862, his wife Nancy, 1786 - 1855.

John Townsend, 1743 - 1835, his wife Betsey, 1744 - 1804.

Elisha Gibbs, 1794 - 1837. Lucy Blackman, 1792 - 1860. Deacon Caleb Bassett, 1757 - 1841, his wife Bethiah, 1762 - 1832. Lewis Bassett, 1790 - 1822. Heith Bassett, dates illegible, his wife Sarah H., 1796 - 1830. Mrs. Phebe, widow of Col. Johnathan Walher, 1718 - 1807. Rev. Thomas Crafts, 1758 - 1819.

Those who served in the Revolutionary War: Ben Simon, 1751 - 1831; William Montgomery, 1755 - 1835; Nathan Sampson, 1718 - 1778; Captain John Barrows, 1742 - 1782; Ebenezer Barrows, ...........; Henry Strobridge, 1719 - 1793; John Pickens, 1718 - 1798; Lieut. Robert Strobridge, 1701 - 1790; Captain Amos Washburn, 1742 - 1794; Joshua Haskins, 1754 - 1849; Consider Jones, 1740 - 1820.

The 1812 graves are: Amos Washburn Esq., ............; Gideon Leonard, 1792 - 1872; Unite Kinsley, 1792 - 1833.

The graves with G.A.R. markers are: Benjamin H. Strobridge, 1822 - 1888; Stephen C. Ramsdell, 1823 - 1873; Hiram Rogers, 1827 - 1885; John C. Ashley, E. B. Westgate, Francis Tatro.

There is one grave of a veteran of World War I, Willis Cobb Holcomb, 1889 - 1947, of the U.S.N.

## BOOTH CEMETERY

The Booth Cemetery is located on County Road, across the road from the old Booth Homestead, which is now the summer home of the Nathan Levin family. This cemetery, which is enclosed by a fence, has only five graves.

## MALBONE CEMETERY

This cemetery is on Malbone Street in the western part of town. Part of the graves are outside of the fence, between the fence and the road. The road appears to have been built through the cemetery and perhaps over some graves. The grave of Malbone Briggs is one that is between the road and the fence, the stone of which is broken into several pieces. Some of the pieces are lost. Only part of the inscription can be read: "Sacred to the memory of Mr. Malbone Briggs who . . ." Five of his eight sons are buried in this cemetery: Daniel, died October 17, 1827, at the age of 32 years; Job C., died January 20, 1827, at the age of 23 years; Doctor Briggs, a son, unreadable dates; Malbone, Jr., died July 1826 at the age of 36 years; John, 1828.

There are also graves of Job Chase, 1795; Debora, wife of Job Chase, 1785.

Meribah Chase, the daughter of Job Chase, died in 1838, aged 73 years. This Meribah Chase could have been Malbone Briggs' wife for all of the sons' stones have the inscription: "Son of Mr. Malbone Briggs and wife Meribah," and one of the sons was Job C. Briggs, who could have been Job Chase Briggs.

The relatives of Meribah perhaps liked the inscription "daughter of Mr. Job Chase" rather than the "wife of Malbone Briggs."

## McCULLY CEMETERY

The McCully Cemetery, located on Highland Road, is about a half-acre in size. The McCully part seems to be the oldest and is in the rear. Other family names are Shaw, Pickens, Hinds, Canedy and Washburn.

There are four Revolutionary markers with flags: John Mc-Cully, 1744 - 1829; Thomas Pickens, 1752 - 1845; James Pickens, 1716 - 1800. The fourth soldier's grave has a stone but it is so badly worn that only the name Andrew McCully can be read.

## PEIRCE AND HASKINS CEMETERY

The Peirce and Haskins Cemetery, sometimes called the Peirce and Allen Cemetery, is located near the Myricks line, in the western part of town.

A large monument indicates the wealth of the Peirce family. The oldest stone is that of Samuel Peirce, 1679 - 1785.

There are two graves of Revolutionry soldiers, Abraham Peirce, 1741 - 1795, and John Allen, 1753 - 1841. There is a G.A.R. grave, that of Columbus Peirce.

## HASKELL CEMETERY

The Haskell Cemetery is just a little beyond the original site of the Jewett Place, on the left side of Bedford Street. Back from the road it is almost concealed from view by trees. Elder Mark Haskell was the first to be buried here in 1785. Miss Elmira Haskell, 1803 - 1883, knit stockings to procure the money with which to erect a neat iron fence around her grandfather's burial lot: a praiseworthy example of family devotion. This fence still guards the family lot.

## SMALLPOX CEMETERY

The Smallpox Cemetery, off County Road, is back of the old Fish place, where the Bruce McCaigs now live. In this grave-yard there is only one stone, that of Beulah Davis, who died of smallpox, 1781 - 1842. Enoch Davis, who died in 1843, is also buried in this lot. His grave is the only one in the family without a stone.

#### WARD CEMETERY

The Ward Cemetery was first known as the Peirce Hill Cemetery, the land being taken from the farm of Captain Job Peirce. This cemetery is located in back of the Elbridge Cushman farm (now the Duck Farm), and is sometimes referred to as the Cushman Cemetery.

The oldest gravestone which is readable is that of Elizabeth, wife of Captain Job Peirce, who died in 1790. There is an Indian grave with this inscription: "AMETUC, A70Y, D 1817."

Two old stones are those of Thomas Samson, 1735 - 1792, and Thomas Sampson, 1768 - 1818. Some of the other old graves are as follows: Job Peirce, 1737 - 1819; Charity Peirce, 1768 - 1831; Experience Peirce, 1772 - 1845; Peter Hoar Esq., 1755 - 1815, his wife Mercy, 1762 - 1847; Lucinda Southworth, 1780 - 1832; Nathaniel Southworth, 1759 - 1819; Leonard Southworth, 1795 - 1857, his wife Virtue, 1797 - 1863; William Southworth, 1778 - 1861, his wife Phebe, 1779 - 1855; Abial Southworth, 1798 - 1868; Seth Southworth, 1773 - 1862, his wife Hopy, 1779 - 1865.

The Ward family lot has a tall granite shaft which can at times be seen from Main Street. The first one to be buried in the Ward part of the cemetery was the wife of General Ephraim Ward, whose stone bears the inscription: "Erected in Memory of Priscilla Ward Consort of Gen. Ephraim Ward, died Nov. 13, 1826, in the 46 year of her age"; General Ward, 1778 - 1856; Nathaniel Macomber, 1735 - 1814, his wife Bathsheba, 1749 - 1818; Bathsheba Macomber, 1785 - 1820; Daniel Macomber, 1770 - 1861; Deacon Ephraim Leach, 1782 - 1864; Nathaniel Staples, 1779 - 1862, his wife Lydia, 1781 - 1863; David Shearman, 1787 - 1828; Elijah Smith, 1759 - 1864, his wife Mary, 1787 - 1828; Rebecca Smith, 1784 - 1826; Martha Clark, 1780 - 1851; Deacon George Leonard, 1729 - 1807; Silvanus Tillson, 1758 - 1822, his wife Hannah, 1755 - 1821; Seth Howard, 1779 - 1852.

Some of the family names in this cemetery are: Bassett, Brown, Caswell, Clark, Coombs, Cushman, Dunham, Fletcher, Hoar, Howard, Leach, Leonard, Macomber, Morgan, Nason, Peirce, Porter, Richmond, Sanford, Shaw, Shearman, Southworth, Starrett, Staples, Tillson, Tinkham, and Ward.

The following have Revolutionary markers: Captain Job Peirce, Peter Hoard Esq., Nathaniel Macomber, and Deacon George Leonard.

1812 Markers are on the graves of Leonard Southworth, General Ephraim Ward, and Captain Silvanus Tillson.

Job Staples has a G.A.R. marker.

## HAFFORD CEMETERY

The Hafford Cemetery is located about three hundred feet off County Road, on land which long, long ago was the Hafford Farm. About twenty graves are enclosed by an iron rail fence. In this cemetery is a tall white monument to honor the memory of the Haffords.

Ebenezer Hafford, whose grave is in this cemetery, was a Revolutionary soldier, born in 1751, and died in 1839. There are also a few field stone markers.

## A PEIRCE CEMETERY

The Peirce Cemetery, sometimes called the Parris Hill Cemetery, is located on Lang Street. The early part, which is at the right, has become nearly impassable. Many of the stones are unreadable, making the records very incomplete. There are many field stone markers in both the old and the new part of this cemetery.

The stones in the older part, and which are readable, bear the names and inscriptions as follows: John, son of Mr. Nicholas and Mrs. Lois Webber, who died March ye 13, 1778, being only an infant; Holder Reed, son of Mr. Simeon and Lurane Peirce, died February ye 4th 1720, in the 4th year of age; Mr. George Peirce, 1774; Isaac Holloway, 1848, and his wife Lois, 1842; Lois Holloway, wife of Benjamin Parioh, 1858; Harriet E., wife of Barnabas Clark, died July 5, 1836, at the age of 19 years, and Priscilla, widow of Guilford Booth.

At the left of the cemetery are buried the members of the Peirce family. This part of the cemetery is neat and well cared for. There are several individual Peirce lots, which are enclosed by the traditional iron-railed fence. Some of the old graves

include: the twin stones for Silas Peirce, 1772 - 1860, his wife Cynthia Tobey, 1773 - 1865; Enos Peirce, 1789 - 1868, his wife Lucy, 1795 - 1860; Elizabeth Peirce Winslow, 1764 - 1845; Benjamin Winslow, 1744 - 1818, his wife Phebe, 1757 - 1836; John Peirce, 1799 - 1884; Basheba Peirce, 1799 - 1884; Enos Peirce, 1748 - 1789, his wife Ruth, 1758 - 1811; Ensign David, 1741 - 1779; Abiah H. Peirce, 1792 - 1871; Sally Peirce, 1768 - 1856; Isaac Peirce, 1705 - 1782, his widow Deliverance, 1714 - 1801; Oliver Peirce, 1786 - 1860, his first wife Amy, 1787 - 1825, his second wife Polly, 1788 - 1832, his third wife, Anna 1778 - 1847. Enos Peirce, 1748 - 1789, has a Revolutionary marker. Patrick Carlin has a G.A.R. marker. Everett E. Charron, 1896 - 1951, has a World War I marker.

## THE PAUPER CEMETERY

The Pauper Cemetery is located in the woods, off the Race Course, on land formerly owned by Zebulon L. Canedy. There are several graves marked only by field stones, which are supposed to be those of the paupers. Within an enclosure of granite posts and iron rails are the graves of John Ramdell, 1786 - 1856, his wife Sarah, 1787 - 1848, and Samuel Robbins, 1793 - 1854. There is a field stone which has a 1775 marker and is decorated each year with a flag.

#### STROBRIDGE CEMETERY

The Strobridge Cemetery is located on Kingman Street, in the section once known as the Strobridge district. The old and original part is enclosed by a fence and arborvitae trees. The oldest graves are those of Henry Strobridge, 1760 - 1842, and his wife Zilpha, 1758 - 1833.

Other family names are Tinkham, Peirce, Baker, Bullock, Parris, McGee, Staples, Reed and Williams.

Four graves have G.A.R. markers: Thomas Hunt, Gilbert W. Carver, William J. Parris, and Caleb B. Parris.

# RACE COURSE CEMETERY



Grave of Ammon, the slave of William Canedy

The Race Course Cemetery is located on the old Race Course. It is here that Ammon, the slave of Capt. William Canedy, is buried. His grave is honored with a Revolutionary marker, 1752 - 1778.

There are only two other stones in this cemetery, John Booth, 1728 - 1802, with a Revolutionary marker, and Lydia Booth, 1732 - 1784. There several other graves but they have only field stone markers.

### HASKINS CEMETERY

The Haskins Cemetery located on Rhode Island Road, on Reed's Hill, is the burial place of Cephas Haskins and his family. Other family names are: Levi Reed, Myrick Haskins, Nathan F. Washburn, Captain Enoch Haskins, James H. Suttie, Galen Haskins, Levi H. Coombs and the grave of Helen Dean. There are several graves without markers.

Albert M. Haskins, 1842 - 1881, has a G.A.R. marker.

## KEITH CEMETERY

The Keith Cemetery, located on County Road, is a small family burial ground. There are few graves in this cemetery, among them one for Joseph W. Keith, 1797 - 1870, and for his wife Judith, 1814 - 1897.

## CANEDY CEMETERY

The Canedy Cemetery, located on Highland Road, is a small family cemetery with only fifteen graves. Zebulon, L. Canedy, 1793 - 1840, and his wife Olive, 1799 - 1886, seem to be the oldest.

## HOWLAND CEMETERY

The Howland Cemetery, located off Howland Road in the Howland district of town, is large. It has several family lots enclosed separately by iron fences. It has been very poorly kept. In fact the oldest part was so grown up that, until the spring of 1952, it was impassable. The inscriptions are illegible, making it impossible to include all the names and dates.

There are many Howland graves, some of the oldest being: Seth Howland, 1789 - 1872, his wife Abigail, 1789 - 1824; Joshua Howland, 1763 - 1824, his wife Phebe, 1759 - 1787; Earle Sears, 1762 - 1842; Samuel Baker, 1778 - 1851, his wife Welthy, 1765 - 1860; Jedebiah Howland, 1788 - 1847, his wife Susan T., 1794 - 1887.

Joshua Howland, 1763-1824, has a Revolutionary marker. The following have G.A.R. markers: Benjamin F. Howland, 1833-1862; William Baker, U.S.N., and Edmund H. Peirce, 1831-1884.

## CLARK CEMETERY

The Clark Cemetery is located on Bedford Street and was set aside from the Clark lot. Some of the early graves are those of Abigail Sturtevant, 1779 - 1820; Noah Clark Esq., 1749 - 1830, his wife Anner, 1753 - 1839; Noah Clark, Jr., 1781 - 1841, his wife Elizabeth E., 1786 - 1849, and Lucy Clark, 1788 - 1848.

Some of the other family names are Nye, Cudworth, Emerson, Briggs and Harvey.

The service flags of this cemetery are for Noah Clark Esq., a Revolutionary soldier. There are G.A.R. flags for John L. Emerson of the Army and William C. Nye of the Navy.

## RICHMOND CEMETERY

The Richmond Cemetery is located at the corner of Taunton Road and Cross Street in North Lakeville. Upon entering the cemetery, one is impressed by a large white field stone. It is the McFarlin family monument.

The oldest stones seem to be those of Gideon Macomber, 1778 - 1852, and his wife Huldah, 1783 - 1849. Other old stones are those of Benjamin Hinkley, 1793 - 1885; Deacon Benjamin Richmond, 1784 - 1830, his wife Phebe, 1755 - 1839; William Richmond, 1774 - 1849, and another William Richmond, 1798 - 1873.

G.A.R. markers are on the graves of George Black, 1820 - 1881; William Dunham, 1829 - 1863; C. Everett Washburn, 1839 - 1870; and Benjamin Leonard Washburn, 1837 - 1863.

## HORR CEMETERY

The Horr Cemetery is beside the Clark Cemetery on Bedford Street. This lot was set aside from the Benjamin E. Horr farm. The first two graves are those of two children of Mr. Horr, both dying in the same year, 1861. The oldest graves are those of Benjamin E. Horr, 1819 - 1891, and his wife Susan, 1825 - 1893. The family lots of Joseph and William DeMaranville are also in this cemetery.

#### PICKENS CEMETERY No. 1

This Pickens Cemetery is off Pickens Street, across from the old homestead of Ben Pickens, about a half mile into the woods. There are only nine graves, all members of the Pickens family. The oldest graves are those of Deacon Zattu Pickens, 1765 - 1843, and his wife Rachel, 1761 - 1840.

#### PICKENS CEMETERY No. 2

The second Pickens Cemetery is located on Pickens Street, beside the Cora Pickens Peirce house. There is one large granite monument for Davis Pickens, the other ten graves

have single white stones, which are reversed, with the foot stones near the street and the inscriptions on the head stones facing the graves. The first burial dates back to 1830 and the last interment was in 1952 (Cora Peirce).

Silas Pickens, Esq., 1763 - 1847, was a Revolutionary soldier.

## SAMPSON CEMETERY

The Sampson Cemetery located on Bedford Street, near the Town House, has the early part enclosed by the traditional granite posts and iron rails. From time to time additional parcels have been added, the land being donated by the Boston Council of Boy Scouts and by Ethan A. Peirce.

On March 1, 1944, the Sampson Cemetery Association was organized: Susan Goodridge, president; N. Merrill Sampson, vice-president; M. Alma Sampson, secretary and treasurer; trustees, Leslie H. Norton, Wallace C. Wilkie and N. Merrill Sampson.

The oldest families who are buried here are Sampson, Bump, Williams and Nelson. Some of the more recent families are Dean, Goodridge, Reed, Mills, Longworth, Peck, Dill, Babbitt, Eaton and Lucas.

Lieut. James B. Sampson, 1837 - 1865, Horatio Sampson, 1838 - 1913, and Lieut. James M. Sampson, 1854 - 1902, have G.A.R. markers. Eli M. Williams, 1796 - 1885, has an 1812 marker. Winthrop Howard Norton, 1921 - 1946, U.S.N.R.

# THE POND CEMETERY OR THE OLD NELSON BURYING GROUND

The Nelson Cemetery, now called the Pond Cemetery, is on Bedford Street, on the shore of Lake Assawompsett. A copy of the deed, which the Nelson family have carefully preserved through all the years, tells us that the land was sold by Ebenezer Richmond to Thomas Nelson, his heirs, for use as a burying place, October 14th, 1734. Burial lot 1733.

The first white settler to die in West Middleboro (now Lakeville) was Amos Nelson, the first to be buried in the Nelson Cemetery. His grave is marked by a small stone, made of native slate or whet stone, taken from the west extreme of the old homestead, on the shore of Long Pond. The letters were marked out by a carpenter's compass. The inscription reads:

HEAR LYES YE BODY

OF AMOS NELSON

AGED V YEARS

DIED JANUARY YE 17, 1724

Many of the graves are those of members of the Nelson family, whose genealogy appears in the third chapter.

The one and only tomb in this cemetery was built for the Ebenezer Briggs family, 1839.

Some of the other graves of the eighteenth century are those of Elias Sampson, 1771 - 1847, his wife, Betsey, 1777 - 1850; Deacon Ebenezer Briggs, 1731 - 1808, with a Revolutionary marker, his widow Elisabeth, 1733 - 1813; Sarah, widow of David Briggs, 1697 - 1794; Sarah, wife of John Peirce, 1731 - 1774; Ebenezer Peirce, 1704 - 1796, his wife Mary, 1717 - 1768; Eunice, wife of Jonathan Westgate, 1777 - 1819; Judith, wife of Harris Rogers, 1762 - 1815; Job Horr, 1760 - 1851, his wife Phebe, 1762 - 1852; Lieut. Josiah Smith, 1721 - 1790, with a Revolutionary marker; John Townsend, 1715 - 1790, his widow Mary, 1699 - 1778; Abiel Townsend, 1739 - 1775.

Ezra Clark, 1711 - 1780; John Russell, 1734 - 1776; Roger Clark, 1758 - 1812, with a Revolutionary marker; Andrew Cole, 1755 - 1841, with a Revolutionary marker; Mary Foster, 1790 - 1879; Catharine Foster, 1795 - 1881; Nathaniel Foster, 1710 - 1793, with a Revolutionary marker, his wife Abigail, 1714 - 1783; Anna Eliza Cole, 1745 - 1813; Job Townsend, dates not readable, with a Revolutionary marker.

Deacon John Macomber, 1720 - 1774, his wife Elizabeth, 1727 - 1775; Hannah Fuller, 1773 - 1803; Hannah Macomber, 1781 -

1827; Oliver Harvey, 1768 - 1835, his wife Desire, 1769 - 1851; Andrew Pickens, 1716 - 1795, with a Revolutionary marker, his wife Elizabeth, 1713 - 1795; Captain John Smith, 1756 - 1809, his widow Abigail, 1756 - 1810; Captain Daniel Smith, 1779 - 1829, his wife Susan, 1782 - 1868; Samuel Pickens, 1772 - 1850, his widow Matilda, 1762 - 1839; Stephen R. Pickens, 1788 - 1829, his wife Abigail, 1791 - 1875; John Bly, 1734 - 1790, with a Revolutionary marker, his wife Margaret, 1756 - 1839; Benjamin S. Hathaway, 1783 - 1833; Ziba Fuller, 1763 - 1811; Samuel Fuller, 1798 - 1843; Timothy Ingraham, 1780 - 1818; Eljah Williams, 1744 - 1818, his wife Sarah, 1731 - 1812; Silas Townsend, 1743 - 1822, with a Revolutionary marker, his widow Hope, 1760 - 1833; Mrs. Nancy, wife of Gilbert Booth, 1797 - 1841; Eben R. Clark, 1770 - 1818; Richard Clark, 1796 - 1830; Xenophon Clark, 1799 - 1829; Captain Horatto Clark, 1798 - 1829.

Lemuel Briggs, 1761 - 1849, with a Revolutionary marker, his first wife Abigail, 1764 - 1810, his second wife Esther, 1767 - 1849; Ezra Clark, 1750 - 1793, with a Revolutionary marker, his wife Mary, 1745 - 1790; Sarah, wife of Joseph Miller, 1755 - 1808; Joseph Phinney, 1716 - 1793, his wife Phebe, 1723 - 1790; Lydia Phinney, 1755 - 1835; Lucinda Phinney, 1790 - 1872; Samuel Cole, 1794 - 1872, with an 1812 marker, his wife Mary, 1793 - 1854; Captain Silas Briggs, 1771 - 1858, his wife Elizabeth, 1773 - 1858; Eliza Briggs, 1799 - 1885; Ann, wife of Thomas Sampson, 1788 - 1863; Sarah Downing, 1791 - 1881; Joseph Shockley, 1787 - 1863, his wife Sally Alden, 1796 - 1859. There is a Shockley stone with a Revolutionary marker, the name and dates unreadable.

There are five graves of G.A.R. soldiers: Silas D. Pickens, W. E. Loner, G. G. Cole, Albert L. Cole and Narcissus Williams.

James D. Maxim has a Spanish-American War stone and marker.

# CHAPTER XIII

## **SERVICEMEN**

### KING PHILIP'S WAR

R

ECORDS show that Isaac Peirce, the pioneer settler, was a soldier in King Philip's War. He was among those brave men who endured the hardships of the winter of 1675-1676. He fought bravely when the

English captured that swampy island in Kingston, Rhode Island, which was the Indians' last stronghold.

## FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

The French and Indian War was declared in June, 1756, and concluded in February, 1763. Abiel Peirce, a great-grandson of Isaac Peirce, served. He was made a corporal in the early part of 1759, promoted to a lieutenant May 4, 1759, and to captain in 1760.

Henry Peirce, a brother of Abiel, was a private soldier. Job Peirce, another brother, also served three terms of enlistment in that conflict. Levi Peirce served as a private; Abiel Cole and Hilkiah Peirce as sergeants.

## REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Anticipating the outbreak of war, emergency companies of military organizations were formed known as "Minute-men." In Middleboro four of these companies had been formed, known as First, Second, Third and Fourth Foot Companies. A large part of the Second Foot Company was composed of persons whose homes were within what is now Lakeville.

At the "Lexington Alarm," April 19, 1775, Captain Abiel Peirce led a company and nearly one hundred men served from what is now Lakeville.

At the Rhode Island Alarm in 1776, Captain Job Peirce led a company of about thirty-three men. Captain Peirce led another company to and participated in the "Secret Expedition" in 1777 into Rhode Island in which eighty-two soldiers served.

Captain Henry Peirce had a company on duty in Rhode Island in 1777, of which there were fifty-two men.

Captain Amos Washburn's company of forty-one soldiers participated in the successful defense of what was then Dartmouth, now New Bedford and Fairhaven, when it was actually invaded by the British forces in September 1778.

Captain Henry Peirce's company of thirty-five men were in Lieut. Col. Ebenezer White's regiment in the expedition to Rhode Island in 1780.

William Rounseville Peirce (a son of Capt. Job Peirce) shipped on board an American privateer some time during the Revolution. That privateer was captured by a British man-of-war, and the crew carried as prisoners to England, and there confined till the independence of the United States had been secured and peace was proclaimed.

## THE WAR OF 1812

Lakeville, then a part of Middleboro, furnished quite a number of men who performed duty in the "coast guard" stationed at New Bedford and Plymouth. But from the records it is difficult to separate the Lakeville men from those of Middleboro.

## CIVIL WAR

When the Civil War broke out, a tract of land was selected in Lakeville, as an encampment for the volunteer militia. Three regiments were stationed there: the Third, Fourth and Fifth. Three farms were used for this encampment, so arranged that one regiment occupied each farm. This camp was named for General Joseph Hooker, and is still known as Camp Joe Hooker.

#### **SERVICEMEN**

In 1863 the first camp was dismantled and the barracks with all the various camping equipment went to Readville, Massachusetts.

A few years later the New Bedford Dragoons, commanded by Captain George Henry Shaw of Middleboro, did a tour of duty at Camp Joe Hooker, which lasted for a week.

In 1902 a training camp of three regiments (State Militia) was set up there for a period of two weeks. These men wishing a new name for their own special camp called it Camp Bates, in honor of Governor John L. Bates.

Again in 1913 a division of the United States Militia encamped there for a period of two weeks. This camp was named Camp Walsh in honor of Governor David I. Walsh.

#### WORLD WAR I — 1914 - 1918

The men who served in the Army during the first World War were:

David Ashley Ralph W. Baker Frederick A. Barton Isaac S. Barton Commi Beech Clifford C. Bernier William L. Bernier Richard C. Bowen Nathan D. Brown George E. Burnham William H. Campbell \*George D. Carr Justin H. Caswell Everett E. Charron Roy S. Chase Fred F. Claflin, Jr. Max A. Cohen John Coolidge Augustus S. DeMoranville Gordon E. DeMoranville Leon R. DeMoranville **★**Dickran Diran

Clarence M. Gurney

Frank P. Hamel

Michael P. Harrington Lester W. Haskins Joseph F. Lavalley Charles Maclellan Kenneth Maker Bertram A. Manton Leslie C. Maranville Frederick L. Matthews Arthur C. Metcalf William H. Miller Frank E. Minott Joseph A. Moquin Richard H. Moranville \*John Murdock \*William Murdock, Jr. George R. Perkins Jesse C. Perkins Harold P. Reed Wilson D. Spooner Charles I. Wambolt William J. Wambolt Clarence C. White George M. Whitney Archie I. Wilbur

The men who served in the Navy were:

Lucius J. N. Alley
Otis E. Alley
Patrick Armstrong
Everett L. Caswell
J. Myron DeMaranville
George F. Frost
J. William Grantham

Arthur S. Hall
Clarence A. Holmes
Walter W. Metcalf
Blake S. Norris
Elwin H. Norris
Lester Pfister
Carl F. Pillsbury

- ★ Killed in action.
- \* Wounded.



German 77 m.m. Cannon

On October 9, 1917, the Lakeville Soldiers Aid was organized, Henry L. Pember, chairman; Mrs. Annie J. Peirce, secretary, and Ernest C. Harvey, treasurer. The last meeting of this organization was held on January 8, 1920. At that time it was voted to use the money left toward paying the freight on a German 77 m.m. gun being shipped from New York. On May 30, 1920, the cannon was presented to the town by Henry L. Pember, chairman of the Welcome Home Committee. It was accepted for the town by Alton Hoard, then selectman.

## **SERVICEMEN**

On May 30, 1919, memorial exercises were held on the Library lawn for Dickran Diran, the only one of the sixty-one boys who went from Lakeville to be left over there.

On May 30, 1929, the boulder bearing a bronze tablet, with the names of Lakeville's honor roll, was unveiled and at the same time Lakeville paid tribute to Dickran Diran, when the park in front of the Town House was named in his honor.

# WORLD WAR II, 1939 - 1946

Lakeville's Roll of Honor which has been erected on the lawn at the Town House has the names of the men and women who served the nation in the Armed forces:

Arthur J. Alley Leon A. Alley Charles W. Angers Malcolm G. Ashley Robert E. Ashley Dwight E. Atwood Hubert L. Atwood Roger L. Atwood Francis E. Baker, Sr. Francis E. Baker, Jr. Joseph H. Baker William J. Baker Roger E. Beech William F. Begley Kenneth E. Belben Francis A. Bell, Jr. Arsene J. Berube Donald L. Bowles William J. Brodie Leella E. Brooks Warren E. Brooks Roland J. Brule Albert R. Buttermore Robert E. Buttermore Joseph Carbone, Jr. Daniel H. Charron Ernest C. Charron Sylvester O. Charron Bernard Cobb John L. Costa Edward F. Corayer

Edna May Corayer

Helen Louise Corayer Alden E. Cowen Albert Crossley, 3rd Elmer N. Cudworth Raymond N. Cudworth **Donald Cummings** Alfred V. Dahl, Jr. Lawrence M. Dahl Leo F. DeMoranville §Francis J. Dooley William P. Dooley, Jr. James A. Downey Harold L. Dunham, Jr. Ronald R. Dunham Donald H. Erickson Blanche L. Fitting David L. Fitting, Jr. Doris E. Freeman George W. Frates Joseph F. Freitas Manuel J. Freitas George F. Frost **★Vincent** Galfre Frederick Gibbs Arthur J. Gibney Norman E. Given Nathan F. Goodridge Ettore Gola Chester E. Goodwin, Jr. George Gray Stephen Grice Clarence M. Gurney

Arthur F. Hall Roy E. Heffner, Jr. Robert D. Higgins Alan Hoard Everett A. Holmes, Jr. Winsor Holmes Forrest F. Horn Alwin C. Jones Merle F. Josselyn Chester R. Kennedy, Jr. Maurice J. Kennedy Robert A. Kennedy, Jr. William T. Kennedy Edmund Knysinski Joseph Knysinski Frances Ella LaMothe Albert W. Lawrence Leonard Lawrence Charles Wm. Leonard George Lewoczko Myron M. Lewoczko Walter Lewoczko Charles R. Linton Alton Linton, Jr. Jean L. Logan, Jr. Hector A. Lusignan Gordon E. MacNeill William L. Mann Bruce W. McCaig Laurence W. McCaig Mary L. McCaig William McFarlin **★**Merle B. McIntire Nelson J. McIntire Armand P. Mello Edward J. Mello Joseph L. Mello Lionel E. Mello Stanley Mills, Jr. Donald A. Morrison John J. Murdock Sidney P. Nelson Winthrop Norton

Sherrard Paquin James J. Parquette James A. Pasquarello B. Irene Perkins Russell W. Perkins **§**Edward E. Pierce David Pimentel Francis B. Quelle Roger L. Quelle Kenneth W. Reed Leon E. Reynolds Charles Richards Nicholas Roberts Walter P. Scholz Thomas D. Sena Howard P. Sewell Nelson W. Sherman Jean Han Shing Jeanon Shing Grace Logan Sinclair Warren B. Standish Philip W. Stafford Richard E. Stafford Clarence W. Sullivan John Swanson Laurence F. Sylvester George H. Taylor Richard L. Taylor Arnold G. Thomas Arnold Tripp Roger Tripp Russell Tripp James J. Vigers, 3rd Newell Wambolt Maurice W. Washburn Philip A. Westgate Stanley A. Westgate Allerton B. Wilbur Joseph Roberts Wilbur Warren J. Willette Louis Willette Joseph J. Wolk Laurier A. Wood Raymond E. Wordell

Robert Nover

#### **SERVICEMEN**

#### CADET NURSES

Arleen V. Corayer Eileen A. Murdock Faith E. Williams

- ★ Killed in action.
- § Died while at camp.

## THE KOREAN CONFLICT

Ralph W. Baker, Jr.
Richard Baker
Richard Buttermore
John A. Black, Jr.
William Colvin
Robert Corti
Donald DeMoranville
Anna E. Gola
William Gomes
Robert Hayden
James C. Hargraves
Eugene Kennedy
Peter Leonard
Roland Mills
Stanley Mills. Jr.

Gordon Mills

Raphael Mello
Gordon Oliver
Lester Richmond
Richard Reynolds
Robert Staples
Frederick Staples
William Shing
Richard Strautman
Leonard Belben
Alton H. Linton
Antonio E. Roy
Charles Thomas
Richard Turner
Sheldon V. Vigers
William Wall

# DID YOU KNOW-

In the spring of 1950, Vernon Vigers while walking in the woods less than half-a-mile from his home found a turtle with the initials, "E.R.V.," and the date, "1939". The initials were those of his brother, who had carved them on the turtle eleven years before.

\* \* \* \*

In 1949 a dead man was elected to office at the Annual Town Meeting. The man was John Kelly, who had died April 19, 1948.

\* \* \* \*

In 1886 - 1887 there being no schoolhouse in the Beechwoods or Parris Hill district, a room was hired in a private house and three terms were taught there. It was at the home of Moses Parris. This school was kept in the northwest front room of what is now the home of Mrs. Eliza Chase. Moses Parris was the grandfather of Mrs. Chase.

\* \* \* \*

Miller Sampson's mother, Zilpha Shaw, brought the sugar maples, which are on the old road, off Main Street, from Maine in a chaise. She had been visiting up there.

# CHAPTER XIV

## **ROADS**



HE roads in Lakeville, like many subjects in this book, have interesting historical backgrounds. The records could well be a book in themselves, but limited space consolidates them to only a few pages. The early roads

will be remembered as having many curves, perhaps because they followed Indian paths, thereby avoiding deep water and other natural obstructions.

Rhode Island Road was one of the old Indian paths. Probably starting originally near the wading-place at the Star Mills in Middleboro, and then to Main Street, it goes through the Haskins neighborhood and continues on through Myricks to Narragansett Bay.

The Acushnet path and the Dartmouth path, both of which headed New Bedford way, were not far apart. They started at Muttock in Middleboro and followed the line of the old road to New Bedford. This was the old Indian trail which was frequently followed by the Indians when going for supplies of shell fish.

These trails were used by the settlers first as bridle-paths, then as stagecoach roads. There were two main carriage-roads from New Bedford to Boston, passing through Lakeville: one was County Road and the other, Bedford Street. Bedford Street was first known as the Turnpike, because of the toll gates. It was laid out in 1804 in almost a straight line from the Town House to Bridgewater, and from there on through Abington and Weymouth to Boston. Old records reveal that the road was not a financial success, the tolls being very high for those days, charging 12 cents for every 10 miles. The stagecoach passed over the road in both directions daily and there was also a baggage wagon which transported freight purchased in Boston or New Bedford.



Bedford Street Near Highland Road

In 1853, when the town of Lakeville was incorporated, it was divided into eleven highway districts, each having a surveyor. Some of the early surveyors were:

A. T. Winslow Silas Pickens C. T. Westgate Frederick Leonard C. E. Jenney Hiram Elmes John Dean S. S. Stetson Eli W. Williams S. T. Wilson Benjamin Horr David Ashley Dennis Tinkham John W. Sears Orin S. Robbins B. H. Reed James Dean Lyman Mason Leonard Washburn John Williams J. P. Peirce H. L. Caswell

John Allen N. M. Sampson D. L. F. Swift Davis Pickens Franklin Haskins Francis S. Shaw Orrin E. Haskins William Barney Sidney McCully G. G. Anderson Horatio I. Caswell Fred J. Clarke Joseph DeMaranville Job M. Staples H. L. Williams Leander Winslow Baylies G. Leonard Cephas Haskins Elijah Horr John E. Ashley Silas P. Ashley Charles G. Davis

#### **ROADS**

Jirah Winslow
Henry Parsons
Josiah F. Tinkham
Sidney T. Nelson
James M. Howland
George S. Hoard
John Cudworth
Bartlett Haskins
W. S. Harlow
E. G. Baker
T. W. Canedy
Job M. Godfrey
Francis E. Sampson

John Shaw
Jones Godfrey
Joseph S. Cudworth
George W. Churchill
Leonard Richmond
J. A. Coombs
N. H. Vaughan
Fred A. Shaw
Thomas F. Hafford
Nathaniel G. Staples
Philander P. Peirce
William Hoard

In 1890 the highway surveyors became known as commissioners. They were Joseph DeMaranville, Zebulon L. Canedy and Leavitt Caswell. In the 1894 Town Report, records show that James P. Peirce was superintendent of streets. Highway surveyors during the next twelve years were:

George E. Holmes
Alton R. Rogers
C. P. Swift
Edward T. Caswell
Frank B. Williams
Ethan A. Peirce

John G. Paun
E. V. Washburn
Percy Robbins
Henry K. Pratt
Joseph A. Frates
Leavitt C. Caswell

In 1907 there were three highway commissioners: Nathaniel G. Staples, E. V. Washburn and F. A. Shaw. For the next few years the highway surveyors were back:

Harry Williams
John S. Williams
Alton T. Hoard
William H. Davis
John E. Chase
Preston Robbins
E. H. Sampson

Walter R. Perkins
A. G. Ashley
H. A. Manchester
Samuel E. Taylor
Rufus Norris
Samuel E. Stickney
Nathaniel F. Washburn

In 1923 it was voted to abolish the system of eight highway surveyors and substitute therefor a superintendent of streets. Zebulon L. Canedy was appointed and held the position until 1933 when S. Elbert Washburn received the appointment. In 1939 the title was again changed to highway surveyor and Mr. Washburn was elected and served until 1944. Since that time, James J. Vigers, Jr., has had charge of Lakeville's roads.

The State highways in Lakeville are Main Street from the Town House to the Middleboro line, laid out by the county commissioners in 1902; Lakeside Avenue, known as the Old Back Road, built in 1877 from Bell School House corner to the Freetown line, with Benjamin E. Horr as agent, receiving three hundred dollars for the work, and accepted as a state highway in 1923; County Road, years ago called the Tobey Road, laid out in 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1924, and Bedford Street (Route 105) from the Middleboro line to Bell School House Corner, first called the Turnpike, accepted as a state road, one part in 1923 and the other in 1931. From Bell School House Corner to the Rochester line, about a mile and three-quarters, Bedford Street is a town road.

Following are the other roads and streets in town, some of which have been laid out by the county commissioners.

Taunton Avenue, formerly Taunton Road, is 1.60 miles long and it leads from Middleboro line to the East Taunton line, having been laid out by the county commissioners.

Long Point Road, from Bedford Street to the Middleboro line, is 1.20 miles and has a county layout.

Peirce Avenue was rightly named for it seems that a Peirce or Pierce family lived in every house on the road years ago. Beginning at John Wilbur's, the Abram Peirce family lived in his house. The Heineck place was the farm of Captain Philip Pierce and, later, his son, James P. Pierce. Philander Peirce's homestead is now the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leonard. Enos Peirce's home came next. The John Peirce house is no longer standing, but it was located nearly opposite the Alton T. Hoard farm. Percival Staples and his family occupy the Oliver Peirce place. The Winslow estate was purchased by Chester Peirce, much later by the Hennessey family, its present owners. Last on the road stood the Elbridge Peirce house, which was sold a few years ago, its interior torn out piece by piece and taken to Hanover, there to repair another old house. Peirce Avenue, which runs from County Road to the Myricks line, is 2.35 miles long. At one time it was called the Carroll Pit Road,



Peirce Avenue Near John Peirce House

because a man by the name of Carroll operated quarries there. Many of the old pits, which are dangerous, are still there.

Precinct Street starts at the Town House and goes to the East Taunton line. It was laid out by the county commissioners in March 22, 1939.

Highland Road, once known as Assawompsett Road, starts at Bedford Street and goes to County Road, ending at Canedy's Corner. It is 2.65 miles long and was laid out June 9, 1942. The hill on Highland Road has been called Shockley's Hill and Shingle Hill.

Blind Street is one-tenth of a mile in length and goes from Peirce Avenue to the Myricks line.

Bridge Street, seven-tenths of a mile long, runs from Main Street to the bridge at the Nemasket River, the boundry between Lakeville and Middleboro.

Clear Pond Road is a little more than a mile and goes from the Upper Four Corners to Route 79, which is Rhode Island



Precinct Street Near Precinct Church

Road. It was accepted by the county commissioners in 1934. Records show that Isaac Sampson was appointed road commissioner in 1881 for Clear Pond Road.

Crooked Lane, a gravel road starting at Main Street, runs through the Wilkie farm and the Bowen place, crosses Bedford Street and continues on to Rhode Island Road. It is a little over two miles long.

Barstow Street is gravel and a short cut from Montgomery Street to Precinct Street, about four-tenths of a mile in length.

Highstone Road or North Precinct Street, leading off Taunton Street at Frank Orrall's Store and going through to Rhode Island Road, is 1.15 miles long and has black top for only a short distance.

Hill Street is a gravel road, a mile long, and runs from Pickens Street to Montgomery Street.

Howland Road is three miles long, running from the Freetown line, through Howland Station, and again to the Freetown line.

Kingman Street starts at the foot of the hill by the brick, stone and wood house at Myricks Street and goes to County Street. It is over two and one-half miles long and was first known as Sullivan Road.

Lang Street is gravel, a mile long, running from Kingman Street to County Street (Route 140).

Malbone Street is a gravel road, 1.20 miles long, going from Peirce Avenue to Mill Street.

Cross Street, a mile long, runs from Taunton Street to Route 44 (Harding Avenue).

Montgomery Street is all gravel, 1.45 miles long, going from Precinct Street to Kingman Street.

Myricks Street is less than half-a-mile, going from Precinct Street to the Taunton line.

Leonard Street, at first called the New Road, was laid out by the county commissioners in 1952. It goes from Southworth Street to Taunton Street and is less than half-a-mile.

Pickens Street, from Precinct Street to County Road, is three miles long and was laid out in 1944. Like many of the other streets in town, Pickens Street was named for the family living on it. It was once called McGee Road for Andrew and Annie McGee, who lived there years ago and before that was known as the Hunt Road, because a family by the name of Hunt lived there.

The Race Course, from Highland Road to Kingman Street, is less than one-half mile. Years ago this was called the half-mile race course. Horse traders met here to try out and time their trotting horses and to hold races.

Rhode Island Road goes from the Middleboro line at Main Street to Precinct Street, at the Precinct Church. It has recently been made part of Route 79. Part of this road was laid out in 1937 and the rest in 1941.

School Street is only .35 of a mile long and goes from County Road to Peirce Avenue. Earlier it was called Short Street.

Southworth Street is about one and a half miles long, running from Rhode Island Road to Highstone Street.

Stetson Street, going from Main Street to Crooked Lane, is one-half mile long.

Vaughan Street starts at Main Street, at the Upper Four Corners, and goes to Vaughan's Bridge at the Middleboro line. It is a little more than a mile long and was laid out in 1949.

Keith Avenue is a short side street, starting at Main Street and curving to Vaughan Street. It is only one-twelfth of a mile long.

Plymouth Street is another short street off Lakeside Avenue, with a dead end at Long Pond, one-fifteenth of a mile long.

Staples Shore Road, not quite a mile long, starts at Main Street and ends at Lake Assawompsett.

Mill Street, about three-fourths of a mile long, goes from Howland Road to the Freetown line.

Harrison Avenue, less than half a mile long, starts at Rhode Island Road and ends in the woods.

Harding Avenue starts at the Middleboro line on Route 44 and ends at the Raynham line.



Staples Shore Road Looking Toward Main Street

## CHAPTER XV

## DID YOU KNOW -



EONARD Richman was killed by a horse. The horse kicked him in the head and he lived only a day or so. The horse had on only one shoe but was on the foot with which he did the kicking.

At one time high school was kept at the Washburn School and General Ephraim Ward taught it. Calvin Kingman might have been one of the teachers also.

Feast Days were celebrated in April or May years ago. One of the gathering places for these occasions was at the home of Hiram Rogers, Alton Rogers' father, on County Road where John Lang is now living. At these Feast Day celebrations all kinds of games were played, such as greased poles, greased pigs and sack races. There were all kinds of good things to eat. Another of the gathering places for these celebrations was at the Town House. Here cannon would be fired in addition to the other events.

Some ancestor of the Misses Hannah and May Nelson built a sled upstairs in their old homestead and when it was completed he could not get it down the stairs, so it had to be taken apart and carried in pieces downstairs and outdoors. Then it had to be put back together again.

At one time cigars were made in North Lakeville on Bedford Street, in the second house south of Taunton Road on the left. This was also a cobbler's shop.

## HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF LAKEVILLE

At one of the Town meetings long ago, when the Washburn schoolhouse had been moved to Highland Road, it was found that the townspeople had overlooked the well situation. The school had no water. At that time Silas Deane Pickens made a motion that they move the well, which was at the Town House, to the new location of the school.

\* \* \* \*

Early in the nineteenth century, when war seemed imminent between this country and France, a Yankee captain put a crew aboard a captured French brig. The captain and crew were landed at New Bedford and, because of the feeling against them, they were secretly taken to our famous Sampson Tavern and held there until they could be sent to the French Council in Boston.

\* \* \* \*

Jack and Sall (Sarah) lived in a cave or dug-out at Indian Shore. After living in this cave for many years, the townspeople thought that Jack and Sall should be cared for at the poor house. But after being moved, they both died within two weeks.

\* \* \* \*

Before the War of 1812 there was a mill for making cotton batting on what is now Stetson Road, on land which was later owned by General Ephraim Ward.

\* \* \* \*

Active coal pits were in operation at Betty's Neck, near Jeremy's Point, years ago. Stephen Dexter worked there as a watchman. These pits were owned by a concern in Taunton. There were also coal pits off County Road, in back of the Eugene Washburn farm.

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The Fall River to Middleboro railroad service, running through Lakeville, was discontinued May 8, 1931. This branch was put into operation in 1845.

## DID YOU KNOW

Malbone Briggs and his seven sons were all highwaymen and robbed stagecoaches. They were also counterfeiters, hiding the money in the ground by making holes with a crowbar and dropping in the money. They also would steal horses and drive them into the Cedar Swamp near their home. Many of the horses became mired in the mud and died. The swamp is sometimes, even today, spoken of as "Dead Horse Swamp".

\* \* \* \*

The property on the shore of Loon Pond was sold to the State organization of Boy Scouts in February 1922, as the site of a permanent camp.

\* \* \* \*

Eugene Francis Reynolds, 79, died August 18, 1948, while riding in a car with his housekeeper. She continued to their home with Mr. Reynolds dead on the seat beside her.

\* \* \* \*

A monument was erected to the memory of Captain Job Peirce, who was given up for dead — but he returned. Captain Peirce served in the French and Indian Wars. At the close of his second term, when he was at Halifax, N. S., with members of his outfit, he embarked on a transport headed for Boston. A great storm arose and it was with difficulty that the ship was kept afloat. It drifted for weeks and the crew suffered great hardships. The ship finally made port in the West Indies and they remained there for the winter. A ship was located which was making a homeward voyage, its port being New Bedford. There Captain Peirce landed and proceeded to his home in Lakeville (at that time Middleboro). It was Sunday and all his family were at church. Captain Peirce entered the church and took a seat in the pew with his family. The quick turn of events that day prompted the officiating minister to toss aside the sermon which he had prepared for the day and preach instead on the verse: "For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."













